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Inter-Arab Affairs

Defections Seen as 'Fatal Blow to Iraqi Regime'

MM1508092595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Aug 95 p 9

[Editorial: "Meaning of Defection"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The insistence on implementing failing policies has inflicted great suffering on the Iraqi people. So has the time come for a change?

The defection to Amman of two senior Iraqi officials with the Iraqi president's daughters has attracted world attention to a political system in which personal support, hostilities, alliances, and family disputes are more important than public matters and policies.

Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid, a distant cousin of President Saddam and his son-in-law, revealed that he had to leave Iraq because his efforts to change his country's policy failed to achieve anything.

It is still unclear yet what political aspects Husayn Kamil Hasan wanted to change. He made vague references to what he described as "the shameful thing that is causing backwardness" in Iraq's current policies. And he expressed his wish to establish "new and developed relations with the world."

It is natural for general statements like these not to provide us with a clear picture of the source of current complaints and the future plans of the Iraqi official currently taking refuge in Amman.

Gen. Husayn Kamil was always described as the "number two" in the Iraqi hierarchy. Those acquainted with the region's politics know for certain that a political structure like the one in Baghdad does not normally mean a lot to members of the leadership, nor does it grant them any significant powers.

Husayn Kamil is just one of the last 10 men or more who have over the past 25 years enjoyed the privilege of being called "number two" after President Saddam Husayn. There is no doubt — after ignoring the sensational aspects of the story — that Husayn Kamil's defection to Amman is a fatal blow to the Iraqi regime. And it sets the Iraqi problem in a new direction, namely toward a possible change from within the regime with logistic and popular help from the Iraqi opposition abroad.

Since the war to liberate Kuwait analysts have believed that no significant change can take place in Iraqi domestic and foreign policies as long as President Saddam Husayn is still in power. This view has been confirmed by some 300 senior Iraqi officers who have fled Iraq over the past five years.

The issue in Iraq is not the role that Iraq can or should play in the necessary regional balance of power to guarantee stability and peace, but, rather, the human suffering the Iraqi people are experiencing as a result of the Baghdad regime's noncompliance with the UN resolutions.

The dramatic defections of last week show that the pressing need for change inside the Iraqi leadership has reached its peak, and it is the duty of the Iraqi people and their friends in the world to redouble their efforts to help bring about this change.

Jordanian's Condemnation of Kuwait Invasion Viewed

MM1408155995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Aug 95 p 9

[Article by Bakr 'Uwaydah: "An Important Jordanian Testimony"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has described Saddam's invasion of Kuwait as a "sin" that must not recur.

Why did we have to wait five years to read and hear a political evaluation by a Jordanian official at foreign minister level — the statement made by Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti was published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH last Wednesday — in which he states: "Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was a blunder, indeed a sin that must not be repeated in any way"?

In any case, that is what happened, and for this political statement to come late is better than not at all.

Reality, however, dictates that what Saddam Husayn undertook that morning of 2 August 1990 did not require more than five minutes to be termed as "recklessness," "carelessness," or indeed "madness" if we were to rely on quick emotional reactions.

Ignoring quick reactions and relying on logical scientific analysis, no more than five hours were needed to assess what was happening and reach the conclusion that if the Iraqi president did not refrain from the invasion, he was leading Iraq and the Arabs toward "certain catastrophe."

Then, no more than five days were needed for the portents of this catastrophe to loom on the horizon, especially in the light of what became clear of the Arabs' disagreement on effective opposition to the Iraqi president's actions instead of firmly confronting him, as was the case with the attempt of his predecessor 'Abd-al-Karim Kasim, when Arab solidarity prevented that attempt from slipping — taking the Arabs with it — into the stupidity of the invasion tunnel.

It is a fact that after five months had passed, Saddam's "recklessness" and "intransigence" had taken Iraq, Kuwait, and all the Arabs into the tunnel of the mother of all catastrophes that Saddam Husayn dubbed "mother of all battles."

It is a fact too that since "the mother of all catastrophes" in Iraq reached its conclusion, that is after the first weeks following the liberation of Kuwait, the trend of abandoning Saddam's ship started and has not ended until now. Many have jumped off, proclaiming their "innocence" and denying their connection with the ship and its captain. Among them are ambassadors and diplomats (of a lesser rank), ministers and advisors, military men and technocrats, writers and intellectuals. They represent those who jumped from "command" posts on board the ship, while there are great numbers who escaped to safety among soldiers and lower-rank officers and among middle-class civilians. We can say that among Arabs with professional qualifications looking for work opportunities, peace, and security outside their countries, there is no one in a worse position than the Iraqis scattered in exile. And if this is the situation of those who fled from Iraq, the hardships caused by the invasion to the Iraqis inside Iraq have continually been on the increase from the day of the invasion until now.

This is the reality that some of those who applauded Saddam Husayn's rashness and encouraged him to pursue his goal, persist in denying. In this, they are like those who try to block the sun with a sieve. And it is because Jordan, during this period, went furthest in upstaging others, straying further from the road of reason and objectivity, and slipping faster toward the catastrophe tunnel, that Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti's statement becomes an important historical testimony, although we had not expected the foreign minister to escape trying to upstage those who still persist in "calling black white" even though in their obduracy they harm Iraq itself and the Iraqi people before anyone else.

It remains to be said that this comment was written before the announcement was made regarding the latest decision by Iraqi leaders to abandon Saddam Husayn's ship. What could be added in the light of information available up to now is, in short, that no one amongst those who still defend Saddam Husayn's policies can afford to ignore the direction and purpose of the Iraqi president's two sons-in-law and daughters in abandoning a ship riddled with holes. The moment has come, indeed it is overdue, to save Iraq and the Iraqi people from sinking.

Islamic Affairs

Egyptian Editor Says Muslims Have Failed Bosnia

NC1408103895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Cairo newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH in its 10 August issue publishes on page 14 a 1,300-word article by Samir Rajab, the chairman of the newspaper's the board of directors, in which he berates Muslims who "say one thing but do another." Calling such behavior the "ultimate catastrophe," Rajab declares that the Arab and Muslim countries' support for the Bosnian Muslims has failed to give them a victory against the Serbs and that the recent Serbian defeat was at the hands of the Croats.

He remarks: "It is astonishing and painful that the defeats inflicted on the Serbs were not a positive result of the Muslims' solidarity or unity; it was not a Muslim army that put fear into the Serbs' hearts, dispersed them, and forced them to flee. This gives us a lump in our throats although we are not hiding our joy—in spite of ourselves—that tyranny and injustice have been defeated by hands other than our own..!"

He adds that the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina is only one of the worries surrounding the Muslims that is not being addressed with "sufficient care and concern." He notes that those who volunteered to fight against the communists in Afghanistan had an ulterior motive, namely, to use that country "as a bridge to terrorism, bloodshed, and the violation of sanctities in fraternal countries."

Rajab criticizes Hasan al-Turabi's loyalists in Sudan as providing another example of Muslims saying one thing but doing another. He says they falsely claim to safeguard Islamic teachings but "their main concern in life is to encourage people to commit murder, to steal, and to incite the Muslim against his Muslim brother."

He says while the Iranian public is forced to live according to "rigid" rules that are not part of true Islam, the Iranian "elite enjoy all pleasures, including marriage of pleasure [zawaj al- mut'ah, temporary marriage permitted by Twelve-Imam Shiites but forbidden by Sunnis], consumption of alcohol, and gambling."

Near the end of his article, Rajab comments on the actions of Muslim journalists as follows:

"Even the world of journalism is full of blatant examples of those who have exploited pluralism in the worst possible way. They obtained licenses to issue newspapers devoted to disseminating extremist ideas and supporting others who are of their ilk.

"One such person is the chief editor of one Egyptian opposition newspaper famous for backing extremism and terrorism. He has customarily attacked the United States in his articles, accusing it of planning to overthrow Iran's mullahs because they uphold Islam and of sponsoring the Arab-Israeli peace talks which—as he consistently says in his articles—have grievously damaged the Palestinian cause.

"Nor did he spare the United States when its State Department dared put Sudan on the list of countries that support terrorism. This is because the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime—according to this opposition Egyptian political party and its newspaper—is a model to be emulated..!!

"This chief editor has been given a full invitation by the U.S. Embassy in Cairo to visit the United States for three weeks, including a free air ticket, free accommodation, free picnics, etc. He will also spend a week in Germany at U.S. expense.

"Before his departure he was visited in his office by the U.S. Embassy's press attache. She handed him the plane ticket, the trip itinerary, and a special envelope containing pocket money in dollars although the all the trip's expenses had been paid for in advance..!!

"I beg you to answer. How do you describe such conduct by 'people' who boast on paper of qualities that they do not possess?

OIC Declares 11 Sep Bosnian Solidarity Day

LD1308140495 Tehran IRNA in English 1303 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 13 (IRNA) — The Jeddah-based secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) announced today that the OIC has declared September 11 as the Day of Solidarity With the People of Bosnia.

Iranian ambassador to the OIC, Sabah Zanganeh said the 52 member nations will hold special ceremonies on Sept. 11 to express solidarity with the Muslims of Bosnia.

He said a special ceremony will also be held at the secretariat of the OIC in Jeddah to mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the OIC.

The OIC was established following a summit meeting of Muslim heads of state in Rabat, Morocco in September 1969 and the Islamic foreign ministers' conference in Jeddah in 1970 and in Karachi in December 1970.

Palestinian Affairs

Rumor of 'Arafat Injury in Car Accident Denied

TA1508142195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During the past few hours, a rumor has been circulating in the European media that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was injured in a car accident in Tunis. The rumor spread to Israel and was the talk of the day in the Knesset.

PLO sources in Tunis, however, have categorically denied the rumor. 'Arafat's adviser Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the story is completely baseless and that he spoke with Yasir 'Arafat on the telephone only a short while ago as the latter was dining with PLO Ambassador in Tunis Hakam Bal'awi. Al-Tibi said everything is all right and no one knows what sparked the rumor.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that inquiries conducted in Jerusalem indicate that apparently nothing happened to 'Arafat in Tunis.

'Pathological Imagination' Behind Rumor

TA1508155295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 15 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by anchor Steve Linde; place not given — live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Linde] European media are reporting what is being called a rumor that Yasir 'Arafat was injured in a traffic accident in Tunis. PLO officials have completely denied the reports. Also in Tunis, the PLO Executive Committee today discussed and approved the Taba deal agreed between Yasir 'Arafat and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres last week. On the line is Chairman 'Arafat's adviser, Ahmad al-Tibi. Dr. al-Tibi, good evening.

[Al-Tibi] Good evening.

[Linde] We understand you spoke with Chairman 'Arafat in Tunis a short time ago.

[Al-Tibi] Yes, indeed, in reaction to these pathological rumors. We don't know the sources of these rumors, but it is a total lie. I talked to the chairman. He was eating dinner with Mr. Hakam Bal'awi, a member of the Central Committee of Fatah. There was no car accident, nothing at all, even nothing close to that, and it is a total lie.

[Linde] Dr. al-Tibi, how do you think this rumor began?

[Al-Tibi] I don't know. Maybe you should help us as a journalist. We don't know the sources. I have been contacted by international and local media, and that's why I talked to the chairman, and there is no basis for anything close to these rumors. It is a creation of a pathological imagination.

[Linde] Dr. al-Tibi, can you tell us what was decided at the PLO Executive Committee meeting in Tunis today?

[Al-Tibi] The proposals of Chairman 'Arafat and the presentation of the partial Taba accord were presented for the Executive Committee of the PLO, and these proposals, presented by Chairman 'Arafat, were accepted. There was no opposition from the members existing in the committee in Tunis.

[Linde] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, thank you very much.

PLO Executive Committee Concludes Deliberations

Ratifies Taba 'Partial Agreement'

NC1508183995 London MBC Television in Arabic 1810 GMT 15 Aug 95

[Report by Mufidah Hashani in Tunis]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Following two days of deliberations, the PLO Executive committee today ratified the Taba partial agreement on expanding Palestinian self-rule. The Palestinian leadership said that the Taba meeting merely issued a Palestinian-Israeli joint declaration on the points of agreement and disagreement on the transitional phase. [passage omitted]

The final statement to be issued in Tunis this evening will stress that the PLO refuses to sign any agreement on the transitional period unless the [Israeli military] redeployment involves the city of Hebron. [passage omitted]

MBC cameras took these pictures of President 'Arafat after a meeting today with the Tunisian President. This was after press reports of an assassination attempt against 'Arafat on his way to Carthage Palace.

[Begin 'Arafat recording] These reports are too trivial to deserve a response, since they are false, part and parcel. I am the guest of my brother Zine el Abidine, the pride of Arabs, and in his protection and the protection of the Tunisian people. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Studies Taba Talks Communique

LD1608115795 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the joint communique on widening the autonomy in the West Bank, which was published following the Taba talks between President Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, the PLO Executive Committee said in its final statement that it had studied the communique and that it listed general principles which should be completed at the current negotiations.

Stresses 'Crucial Issue' of Jerusalem

JN1608070095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The PLO Executive Committee has issued an important statement following its meeting under President Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis last night. The statement emphasized that the agreement on the transitional phase must in no way allow any change in the status of the Palestinian areas until the Palestinian National Authority's control is extended to all areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The statement noted the need for solving the issue of Hebron, just like the other Palestinian areas, within the process of the redeployment of the Israeli occupation army in the West Bank.

In its statement, the Executive Committee considered the Issue of Jerusalem a basic and crucial issue in all phases of the political solution. The Palestinian citizens of occupied Jerusalem must participate in the legislative elections both as voters and candidates.

The Committee called on all Arab, Islamic, and international bodies to pressure Israel to stop violations aimed at changing and Judaizing Jerusalem landmarks.

In its meetings, the Committee dealt with a number of Arab and international issues in light of contacts and meetings between President Yasir 'Arafat and a number of leaders of Arab and friendly countries. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the nationalist role of the negotiating Palestinian delegation in defense of our people's rights and national principles.

At the conclusion of the statement, the Committee stressed the need to work for strengthening the role of the Palestinian National Authority, promoting the role of its institutions, respecting the supremacy of the law, and enacting the necessary statutes to organize the foundations of Palestinian society.

Wants Israeli Forces Out of Hebron

LD1608110595 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement issued yesterday in Tunis at the end of its meetings, the PLO Executive Committee called for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Hebron as a precondition for signing a comprehensive agreement on widening the autonomy in the occupied West Bank.

The committee emphasized that the presence of Jewish settlers in Hebron definitely constitutes a time bomb in the heart of the city and in the heart of the peace process.

The PLO Executive Committee stressed the necessity to settle the problem of Hebron within the framework of the expected redeployment of the Israeli forces in the villages and towns of the West Bank in accordance with the declaration of principles.

The executive committee listed the other conditions that it deemed necessary for signing a final agreement on widening the autonomy. These conditions included the PLO's demand to stop the building of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Jerusalem and disarming the Jewish settlers. The PLO emphasized that it would be impossible to implement any agreement if there were armed groups terrorizing the people.

The executive committee also called for the release of all Palestinian detainees in the Israeli prisons. The committee emphasized that this measure constituted a basic factor in achieving a transitional agreement.

The PLO also called for the return of expelled Palestinians and the protection of the Palestinian right to share the water resources with Israel.

On Jerusalem, the PLO Executive Committee reiterated its stance on the right of Palestinian citizens to nominations in the elections for the autonomy council. The committee called for an end to the Israeli violations of the Palestinian shrines and institutions in Jerusalem. In this regard, the executive committee called on all the Arab, Islamic, and international parties to continue their pressure to end the attempts to change the character of the Holy City and Judaize it.

Fatah Member on Tunis Meetings, Peace Talks

NC1508165395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1145 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 15 Aug (MENA)—The Fatah Central Committee, the biggest PLO faction, concluded its first round of meetings under the chairmanship of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat early this morning.

The Committee is expected to resume its meetings this evening to discuss the developments of the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Committee member Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim told the MENA correspondent in Tunis that during the meeting, which lasted almost three hours, 'Arafat presented a report on the progress of negotiations with Israeli and the results of his discussions last week in Taba with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

'Abd-al-Rahim, who is secretary general of the Palestinian National Authority's Presidential Council, said that 'Arafat affirmed that there are a number of principles the Palestinian side is adhering to. These are: Israeli withdrawal from all cities, including Hebron; the deployment of Palestinian public security forces in the B areas, which includes towns, villages, and camps; setting a timetable for withdrawal from the populated C areas; the Palestinians water rights; the need for the PA to assume all powers and responsibilities; and the geographic unity of the West Bank.

He added that 'Arafat told the Central Committee that the Palestinian side was being as flexible as possible, but that the Israeli side had not shown any flexibility in dealing with the settlers. He clarified that the main current within the Israeli Government wants to find an agreement with the Palestinians, but so far there have been serious differences of opinion among Israeli Government officials. The Israeli side has to show the same flexibility as the Palestinian leadership in order to reach an agreement, particularly regarding the Hebron issue and the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from there. Then we would be able to reach an agreement on the transitional stage and on holding Palestinian elections.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that in his report, 'Arafat criticized the appeasement policy the Israeli Government is taking toward the settlers, which has encouraged them to continue their terrorist activities, thus threatening the peace process. He emphasized that the settlers' provocations threaten to destroy everything, including the peace process itself.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that 'Arafat remarked that the Palestinian Authority does not accept using the settlers as a sword of Damacles dangling over the Palestinians' heads in order to extract further concessions from us. He called on the Israeli Government to prove that it is serious in confronting those who threaten the political settlement process. He added that the appeasement policy Israel is using toward them will accomplish nothing for the peace process.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that during the meeting 'Arafat emphasized the importance of Israeli withdrawal from Hebron, saying that it is impossible to hold the Palestinian Council elections in Hebron while it is under Israeli occupation. He said that he also clarified that the Palestinian negotiators were as flexible as possible regarding the timetables for the B areas due to their desire to reach agreement on the transitional stage.

'Arafat pointed out that the coming three weeks are important for the Israeli side to take serious steps if it wants to reach agreement regarding the transitional stage and expanding autonomy to include the West Bank also.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the discussions of the Central Committee clarified their appreciation of the general line in Israel, which wants an agreement with the Palestinians, even though this line still exaggerates the security issue to the extent that it has become a nightmare threatening the negotiations.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the members of the Committee reaffirmed the need to adhere to Palestinian principles, the most important of which are the Hebron issue; the need for the Palestinian public security forces to assume their responsibilities in the B areas; and a clear, defined, and appropriate schedule for the redeployment of the Israeli Army from the C areas.

He added that the members of the Central Committee had asked Israel to implement the points of the Gaza-Jericho First Agreement that they have not implemented so far, particularly the security corridor between Gaza and Jericho and the expansion of the Jericho region. He noted that most of the members support 'Arafat's policy and approach on reaching an agreement regarding expanding the autonomy area and continuing the peace process while continuing to adhere to the Palestinian principles.

He clarified that the Central Committee meeting's purpose is to brief it on the results of the negotiations, particularly the results of the 'Arafat and Peres meetings in Taba. The meeting will also evaluate the negotiating stance in general and set appropriate policies guaranteeing adherence to principles and flexibility in pursuing the objectives of the transitional stage.

'Abd-al-Rahim mentioned that the Central Committee will discuss at this evening's meeting Fatah's internal situation and how to make appropriate plans for future contingencies and for the post-negotiations period. They will also decide on a plan for Fatah's approach to the Palestinian elections if agreement is reached on the transitional stage.

'Abd-al-Shafi: Taba Violates Oslo Accord

TA1508161995 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 14 Aug 95 p 3

[Report by Zaynab 'Awdah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi has called on the Palestinian leadership to work toward achieving a unified Palestinian position through a collective leadership that includes all PLO factions. He says this would enable the leadership to assess the current situation, confront the challenges facing the Palestinian people, and determine what best serves the public interest.

'Abd-al-Shafi said: Since we alone are facing Israel, we should organize the Palestinian house by setting up a unified leadership that is capable of planning, organizing, and exploiting the Palestinian people's scattered and neglected capabilities and which acts to activate the Palestinian individual.

On the progress achieved in the talks with Israel, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: "The agreement is bad. Israel is imposing its positions through the state of imbalance in the region. It is the stronger party. The agreement is a clear violation of the Oslo accord."

He added: "The negotiating process has lost its credibility. What is taking place will not lead us to self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state, because Israel is placing obstacles in the path of our final goal. It intends to keep large and important areas of the occupied territories, such as Hebron, the settlements, East Jerusalem and the settlements around it, the Jordan Valley, and the settlements west of Nabulus".

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: The settlement drive is being organized and planned by the Israeli Government in order to keep what it wants.

He expressed the belief that it is impossible to solve the issue of peace between the Palestinians and Israel without foreign intervention on the basis of right, law, justice, and human rights.

'Abd-al-Shafi called on the Palestinian National Authority to suspend the talks and dispatch high-level delegations to inform the world that the peace process has lost all its credibility and that Israel is violating all the agreements with the Palestinian side.

Radio Lists 'Important Points' in Taba 'Statement'

JN1508193295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Aug 95

[Report by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[FBIS Translated Text] At noon today, the PLO Executive Committee concluded meetings that started yesterday, Monday, in Tunis under President Yasir 'Arafat.

Members in the PLO Executive Committee told Voice of Palestine that the conferees discussed various Palestinian and Arab issues, and discussed in detail last week's negotiations in Taba.

Members of the PLO Executive Committee stressed that what was achieved in Taba was not an agreement, but a joint statement that included some general principles that require clearer and more precise details.

The Executive Committee believes that a final position on the issues that have been discussed in the negotiations will only be achieved through a comprehensive agreement on the various issues related to the transitional phase.

A statement on the meetings of the Executive Committee is expected to be issued in the next few hours. Voice of Palestine has obtained some of the most important points in that statement. They include:

—Adherence to the principles on the need to negotiate over the basic issues.
—The need to arrive at a comprehensive agreement over the various issues related to the transitional phase.
—The Executive Committee stressed that until an agreement is reached with Israel, no changes to the Palestinian territory should be allowed.
—The conclusion of a comprehensive and complete agreement will provide a chance to arrive at a Palestinian-Israeli agreement at the set date.
—The Executive Committee stressed the need to arrive at a solution to the issue of Hebron, just like all other Palestinian towns.
—The national authority should extend its control over all the Palestinian territory from which the Israeli Army will withdraw.
—Emphasizing the need to confront settlement activities.
—Emphasizing that the elections will not be held before the Israeli Army redeploys from all the inhabited areas.
—Releasing all the detainees, an issue which constitutes a basic element in any agreement with Israel.
—Preserving our rights to waters and the Palestinian people's right to exercise their right over their territory and all their resources.
—Holy Jerusalem is a basic element in the negotiations over the elections.
—Emphasizing the need to stop all encroachment on the Muslim and Christian holy places.

Voice of Palestine also learned that the conferees also discussed the Palestinian relations on the Arab and international level and agreed on the need to strengthen and improve these relations. The Executive Committee also praised the Palestinian negotiators in the Taba and Elat negotiations and their commitment to the principles set for them.

President 'Arafat is expected to meet separately this evening with the Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Indian, and Bosnian ambassadors accredited to the PLO.

'Arafat Returns Home From Tunis Meetings

JN1608114995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT

[From 'Today's Events' program]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat returned to the homeland at noon today from Tunis where he chaired meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee.

Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat and his spokesman, said the Executive Committee emphasized that no agreement can be signed with the Israeli side without full agreement that covers all issues of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles.

Kanafani said what was agreed on in Taba between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was a joint statement and a document that includes the issues on which there is agreement or disagreement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

'Arafat Criticizes Israel to Ambassadors

LD1608114195 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An informed Palestinian source said that President Yasir 'Arafat, when he received a number of ambassadors yesterday in Tunis — including the EU troika Spain, France, and Belgium — accused Israel of placing obstacles in order to delay the implementation of the Palestinian autonomy agreement.

Between sessions of the PLO Executive Committee, 'Arafat received, in succession, the Indian, Chinese, Russian, and Bosnian ambassadors to Tunisia. During these meetings 'Arafat complained that Israel did not respect the implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Palestinian Autonomy, which was signed in September 1993. He referred in particular to the articles related to the redeployment of the Israeli forces and the organization of elections for the Palestinian Autonomy Council. He also referred to the negotiations between the Israeli settlers and government and the dangerous behavior of these settlers towards the Palestinian population. He also criticized Israel for continuing its policy of confiscating Palestinian land and violating the sacred places, particularly in Jerusalem.

Qaddumi 'Initiative' Provokes Ministers' Wrath

MM1608140095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Aug 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Qaddumi Initiative Arouses 'Arafat's and Authority Members' Anger"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The initiative announced by PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf), in which he criticized the Palestinian Authority's political and economic administration in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, has aroused the anger and protest of Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority. [passage omitted]

On Qaddumi's plan, Palestinian sources close to 'Arafat have said that the Palestinian president expressed his anger at the initiative Qaddumi announced in Amman, in which he also demanded that the negotiations with Israel be suspended. [passage omitted]

[Palestinian Information Minister Yasir] 'Abd-Rabbuh vehemently attacked Qaddumi's plan, saying that "it contains idle talk, because there is no government in exile as long as there is a government on the ground. This is because the Palestinian people's higher leadership is the PLO and its various institutions, which should be reactivated. That is including the Central Council and the National Council."

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, described Abu-al-Lutf's statements as "futile air bubbles. These bubbles remind us of old and past experiences along the lines of Ahmad Hilmi Pasha's government of all Palestine, which was based in Cairo while Palestine was being squandered and drowning."

On Qaddumi's call for suspending the negotiations with Israel, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: "I do not think that suspending the negotiations would be of any value now." He added that the thing that would be of real value is to achieve national accord over the foundations on which the negotiation process is based. That is in accordance with the declaration of principles and everyone's participation in formulating these foundations and in drawing up the rules, without exchanging the views through press statements. Instead, we should exchange them in the framework of PLO institutions.

Dr. Samir Ghawshah, labor minister in the Palestinian Authority and secretary general of the Popular Struggle Front, said that Faruq Qaddumi's call for establishing a Palestinian government in exile as an initiative that has been overtaken by events. It was proposed when we were outside the homeland.

Ghawshah added: "We have now set up a national authority and our Palestinian entity, which is crystallizing toward establishing an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

Ministry Decries Measures Against Orient House

JN1508151395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Information Ministry says that the Israeli ministerial committee's decisions and measures against Orient House in occupied Jerusalem are part of the feverish Israeli campaign against the holy city to damage its characteristics and obliterate its Arab and Islamic identity.

An Information Ministry statement stressed that the Israeli measures against Orient House constitute a new link in the chain of Israeli attacks on Jerusalem and its population and institutions to impose the status quo.

The ministry urged the Israeli Government to take deterrent measures against the settlers and their continued threats to the peace process instead of yielding to their provocative practices and encouraging them to seize lands and attack citizens.

Radio Notes Clinton's Order on PLO Restrictions

JN1608065495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton issued a presidential order in the form of a memorandum to the U.S. Secretary of State canceling all restrictions pertaining to U.S.-PLO relations. The order came in accordance with the U.S. President's prerogatives stipulated in the law to expedite the Middle East peace process.

The presidential order stipulates that it is in the U.S. national interests to cancel restrictions on the following:

1. Article 307 of the foreign aid law in connection with the PLO or any bodies linked with it.
2. Article 114 of the U.S. State Department's authorization for releasing funds for the fiscal year 1984/1985 [as heard] in connection with the PLO or associated bodies.
3. Article 1003 of the foreign aid law for the years 1988-1989.
4. Article 37 on granting the PLO the status of an observer or any other official title in any meetings that are supervised by or related to the International Monetary Fund.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Quray': Negotiators Far From Reaching Agreement

JN1508074795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian-Israeli talks continued in Elat last night to draft a joint statement recently signed in Taba, and to discuss security arrangements in Hebron and the transfer of civil powers in the occupied West Bank to the Palestinian National Authority. Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala', head of the Palestinian side to the Elat negotiations, said Israel continues to obstruct implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles. He added in a statement to Voice of Palestine, that the two sides are still far from reaching a solution on pending issues. Abu-'Ala' refused to confirm or deny reports that said the agreement will be signed in Washington on 9 September. He said: We are still negotiating and we cannot specify a date for the signing of the agreement.

Israel Said To Hand Lebanon Proposal on Withdrawal

TA1508160695 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 14 Aug 95 pp 1, 19

[FBIS Translated Text] In utmost secrecy, Israel has presented the Lebanese Government with a document composed of 12 clauses comprising a proposal for an Israeli withdrawal and the future of Lebanese-Israeli relations. Following are the clauses of the document:

1. Israel recognizes Resolution 425, which calls for its withdrawal from south Lebanon. It also recognizes Lebanon's international borders.

2. Israel is ready to sign a peace treaty with Lebanon within a political and security framework that responds to the Lebanese Government's demands for withdrawal, provided a military working group is formed that will handle the security arrangements between Israel and Lebanon.

3. A Lebanese-Israeli military committee will ensure that weapons are not used or possessed by any group in Lebanon, with the exception of the Lebanese military forces.

4. Israel will help the Lebanese Government to disarm the armed parties on its territory through a political agreement and the cooperation of the countries advocating the peace process or in coordination with other parties.

5. The disarming of Lahd's army, which cooperates with Israel in the border strip, will be ensured, provided that goodwill is shown in implementing the steps stipulated in the first four clauses.

6. The withdrawal from Lebanese territory will be carried out in accordance with a timetable, while ensuring that terrorist activities, infiltration into, or military operations against Israel are halted.

7. Israel will be ready to release Lebanese prisoners held in Israeli jails in return for the repatriation of six Israeli officers and soldiers captured in Lebanon.

8. There will be an exchange of information between the two countries' intelligence services within the framework of security coordination in order to prevent acts of infiltration, sabotage, or terrorism that will give Israel a pretext to enter Lebanon once more, with the observation that the liberation of the Lebanese al-Biqa' Plain will guarantee the Syrians that no Israeli invasion will take place through al-Biqa'. Consequently, Israel, Lebanon, and Syria will be the beneficiaries.

9. As a first step and in order to demonstrate Israel's goodwill, a rapid Israeli withdrawal from the Jazzin area in the south will be discussed on the same day on which an agreement of principles is signed.

10. Priority will be given to Lebanon in signing trade and tourism agreements.

11. An increase in U.S. aid to the Lebanese economy and for the rebuilding of Lebanon during the first stage of peace will be guaranteed. Assistance will also be provided for the restoration of a free and strong Lebanese economy.

12. Israel affirms that it has no ambitions with regard to Lebanese waters that reach its territory.

At the end of the document, Israel says that the agreement it encompasses will be signed with the Lebanese Government and will be immediately implemented six months after an agreement of principles is signed with Syria, which is expected to take place in November 1995.

Algeria

Sifi Addresses Governors on Presidential Elections

LD1508204195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1222 GMT 15 Aug 95

[Address by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi to a gathering of governors in Algiers on 15 August — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May God's prayers and peace be upon the most honorable messenger. Ladies and gentlemen members of the government, members of the government committee in charge of preparing the presidential elections, governors, ladies and gentlemen; peace and mercy and blessings of God be upon you. On 31 October 1994, on the occasion of the commemoration of the 40th [as heard] anniversary of the outbreak of the glorious November revolution, President Liamine Zeroual assumed an historic responsibility and took the courageous decision to seek the arbitration of the people and announced the holding of presidential elections before the end of 1995. The head of state considered that it was necessary and urgent that decision-making should return to the people in its capacity as witness and sovereign. This came after the head of state's numerous, diligent, and patient attempts, with an open mind, to bring together all the parties and the concerned sides over a republican, legal, and democratic project embodying the values and principles of this nation. When the head of state decided to hold presidential elections before the end of this year, he did not close the door to dialogue, nor did he decide that such elections would be the comprehensive and final solution to the crisis our nation has been experiencing for several years. At the time, this decision was a response to the hopes of many parties that have been calling for a quick return to the electoral track.

But what is surprising is that some of the political parties have quickly objected to this initiative; so, why this contradiction then? The real causes of this contradiction are many. As for the justifications given by these parties, they come down to the claim that the state is currently unable to provide the necessary human, technical, and security-related conditions to organize free and fair elections. In this respect, it should be pointed out that the government committee in charge of preparing the presidential elections has handed its final report to the head of state, in which the committee affirms that it is possible to hold these elections within the deadline fixed for them. Furthermore, all the concerned sides have been invited to take part in the national committee to monitor the presidential elections to guarantee the fairness of the elections and their results.

It has been decided also to invite neutral international observers representing various international bodies and countries to observe the credibility of the elections. Comprehensive arrangements have begun to be gradually made in terms of legislation and organization, as well as human, material, and financial resources, that take into consideration all aspects of the elections, particularly the security environment. This is being done thanks to the mobilization and zeal of all the central and local organs of the state. Likewise, on the force of frank directives issued by the head of state, these arrangements will continue to be refined and fixed with a view to further improving, enriching, and strengthening them and following them up in their smallest details by all officials at the national and local levels, and under the authority and responsibility of the state.

For these reasons, you are meeting today to see for yourself the extent of preparedness of both structures and men, identify any shortcomings or fresh problems in the light of debates, and suggest any additional measures that should be taken in all domains. The meeting is also meant to make you aware more and more of your tasks and responsibilities to the instructions given by the head of state concerning the holding of free and fair elections in a climate of legality and security. On this basis, you are in charge of a heavy responsibility, and therefore, you are invited not to hide any of your preoccupations, and to be frank and honest in your interventions. You are invited also to show ability, to have vision, to be clever, and to take initiative so that we may succeed in securing Algeria's appointment with its destiny.

I call upon you in particular to continue to ensure that the central and local administration in charge of the elections remain mobilized and committed and to recruit as many compatriots as possible to run election centers and bureaus.

We are shouldering a historic task. Let us then do it in the best possible way despite the difficulties, and let us counter these difficulties whether they relate to political or partisan aspects or rumors or various subversive acts.

Despite all this, we are Algerians, and like all Algerians, are anxious about the situation in our country. Out of our awareness of the importance of this electoral date we cannot prevent ourselves from addressing the conscience of the citizens and the politicians. To the citizens we say: Do your electoral duty and express your will. To the politicians we say: Shoulder your responsibilities toward the people, the homeland, and history, because Algeria in these difficult times cannot risk bearing failure that will add more to our people's suffering and hit the core of our unity and our independence.

I underline that these elections are not considered by the head of state a comprehensive and final solution to the Algerian crisis. Personally, I believe these elections will be the best beginning for a more comprehensive and more serious dialogue, because there is no better beginning for a dialogue than allowing the people, before anything else, to express their will.

Obviously these elections are nothing more than a first step toward returning to a comprehensive electoral course, after which Algeria will definitely return to real democracy, i.e. a democracy in which no one is killed because he thinks differently.

Ladies and gentlemen, the elections, whose organization we are pursuing, are aimed primarily at the people. Our main object is that the people should participate forcefully in these elections. This participation depends to a great extent on enhancing the awareness of the citizens and informing them about their rights, duties, as well as how to register, obtain their voting cards, and vote.

In conclusion, I am sure you will attach great importance to all these aspects in your work.

Thank you for listening. Peace be upon you and God's mercy and blessings.

Benmansour: Election Plans 'Progressing Well'

LD1508224295 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Mustapha Benmansour held a news conference today at which he discussed the latest developments in the process of preparations for the presidential elections in the governorates. The minister also presented figures on voter registration and electoral polls. Further information in this report by Mohamed Yahia:

[Yahia] Interior Minister Mustapha Benmansour met the press this evening on the sideline of his meeting with the governors to study the governors' reports on preparations for the elections and give them his instructions. The minister's assessment of the preparations was described as positive.

[Begin Benmansour recording] We can say that what we have seen of the preparations was good. Naturally, preparations cover many areas, including security. Preparations at all the municipalities and polling stations have to be ready on the election day. [end recording]

[Yahia] After pressing questions on the process of revising electoral lists, the minister said:

[Begin Benmansour recording] Organizational procedures and administrative and material preparations include important areas such as revising the electoral lists, distribution of voting cards, polling stations, and all the aspects concerning communications and material preparations. This is all we can say today, 15 August. [end recording]

[Yahia] 370,000 people have been appointed to work at 31,000 polling stations. The administration will be fully responsible for them.

The minister pointed out that preparations at 40 out of 1,541 municipalities were progressing slowly. In this context, the minister said there was a substantial improvement in the security situation from one day to another. "We are optimistic," the minister said. "Material preparations include the setting up of interlinked information networks to avoid possible breaches," he said.

Regarding the registration of voters, 14,000,000 have been registered so far. The revision process makes it necessary to keep electoral offices open even during weekends.

"Briefly, revision and preparations, which are being carried out in six main regions, are progressing well," the minister concluded.

Zeroual Meets Political Party Leaders

LD1508231295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the framework of setting up an independent national committee to monitor the presidential elections, President Liamine Zeroual met today at the presidential office Noureddine Boukrouh, leader of the Party for Algerian Renewal, and Mohamed Cherif Taleb, leader of the National Party for Solidarity and Development

Representatives of the head of state also received a delegation of the Algerian Solidarity Front led by Rabah Bencherif.

Zeroual Meets FLN Central Committee Member

LD1508202895 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, President Zeroual has received Ahmed Taleb el-Ibrahimi, a member of the central committee of the National Liberation Front. He is mainly known for being close to the Islamic Salvation Front.

The meeting took place in the framework of the dialogue started [words indistinct].

Egypt

U.S. Missions Increase Security After Threats

NC1508121995 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
11 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Embassy in Cairo and U.S. embassies in several other countries in the region have received threats from unknown individuals, threatening to carry out operations against U.S. targets and interests in retaliation for the unjust positions adopted by the United States on Arab and Muslim causes. Washington has asked Egypt and several other countries in the region to increase security around U.S. diplomats, nationals, installations, and other targets. A U.S. State Department report delivered to the foreign ministries of the concerned countries said the United States has obtained information that some Islamic groups are planning new operations against U.S. interests in the Middle East.

The report noted that some groups want to exploit the arrest of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, director of the Islamic Resistance Movement's "Hamas" political bureau, and the U.S. position on events in Bosnia-Herzegovina to set in motion "terrorist" activities planned years ago against U.S. targets and interests.

Mubarak Reportedly Fires Officials Over Attack

EA1508160595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed Egyptian sources have said that the head of the Egyptian regime, Husni Mubarak, has dismissed all the officials responsible for Sudan in the Egyptian security forces, including those working under diplomatic cover in the Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum.

The sources said that the head of the Egyptian regime took this decision after the security organs failed to invent incontrovertible evidence about the involvement of Sudan in the attempt to assassinate him in the Ethiopian capital during the recent Organization of African Unity summit. The sources said that the conclusions of the investigation carried out by the Ethiopian authorities did not include any reference accusing Sudan of supporting, training or financing those who took part in the attempt.

'Terrorists' Confess to Training in Sudan

NC1508145895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1240 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—The five terrorists pushed into Egypt by the Sudanese authorities have confessed that they had specific instructions to assassinate a number of major political and security figures and blow up vital establishments in Egypt.

The five terrorists—Husni al-Sayyid Buhayri, Muhammad 'Ali al-Sharqawi, Mustafa 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sayyid, Rabi' 'Id 'Abd-al-Ghani, and 'Ali Qasim al-Marakibi—confessed before the Supreme State Security Prosecution that they were trained in terrorist crime in "Camp Tangu" in southern Sudan.

They said they received joint training in the Sudanese camp with the terrorists who committed the aborted assassination attempt against President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa on 26 June.

The five terrorists said in their confession that Hasan al-Turabi's [National Islamic] Front in Sudan maintains strong ties with terrorist leaders abroad and that they visit Khartoum frequently. Among these are Mustafa Hamzah, Islam al-Ghamri, and Ahmad Mustafa.

The five terrorists said they received training in Sudanese camps on sophisticated explosives techniques that use light cells, time indicators [Mu'ashirat Zamaniyah], and radio equipment.

They confessed that the rifles, bombs, explosives, and radio equipment that they were caught with were for use in terrorist schemes.

The terrorists said that several Egyptian terrorists living in Afghanistan, some of whom were sentenced to death, are currently visiting Sudan at the invitation of al-Turabi's Front.

'Terrorists' Profiled

NC1508201195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1830 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—Terrorist Muhammad 'Ali al-Sharqawi, one of the five terrorists Sudan forced to come to Egypt to commit terrorist crimes, has confessed that he received training in crimes of violence at "Camp Tangu" in southern Sudan and that he had instructions to commit these crimes whenever ordered to do so.

Al-Sharqawi, a 22-year old born in Damietta, said in an interview with Egyptian television that he belongs to an Islamic group. The television interview with the five terrorists will be broadcast this evening and over the next two days. Al-Sharqawi said he had traveled to Saudi Arabia looking for work. He was the guest of a member of the same group who was getting ready to travel to Afghanistan. He expressed his desire to travel to Afghanistan as well to carry out a jihad.

The terrorist said that he stayed in Afghanistan for 2 and 1/2 years, until the jihad was over. Then the group he belongs to sent him to Sudan in August 1994.

Al-Sharqawi said in the interview that a number of Islamic Group members met him at Khartoum airport and sent him to a farm housing the group, where he received training in the use of shortwave radios to operate detonation buttons and in forging identification cards and other documents.

He added that a number of the Islamic group's leaders, including Mustafa Hamzah and Haytham Mustafa, visited the farm every now and then. He explained that the training was on how to establish an Islamic state in Egypt, "as they led us to believe".

Talking about the nature of the operations the Islamic Group carried out, he said that it targeted tourism sites and police generals in order to affect the existing regime and set up an Islamic state.

He was asked whether any of the Islamic Group members who were at the farm had taken part in the assault against President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa on 26 June. I saw two people at the farm, he said. They were the people whom I identified from their pictures in the newspapers. One of them is called 'Umar al-Masri, but his real name is Sharif; the other is Muhammad Siraj, whose real name is Fathi, he said.

Terrorist al-Sahrqawi said that with Sudanese help he drove through the desert from Sudan with a group in a Toyota and crossed into Egypt. The car was driven by a Sudanese and was loaded with many weapons, including Kalashnikovs and M-16's. He added that he was carrying his normal passport, an identification card bearing the name Hasan 'Ali Kamil, and three blank identification cards that he was given in Sudan.

Asked about the nature of the training he received in Afghanistan, he said: We were trained to use pistols and various weapons, even tanks, and explosives like TNT, C-4, Cartox [as transliterated], and others.

Al-Sharqawi added that the farm in Sudan where he received his training included some Sudanese in addition to the Egyptians, totalling between 20 and 30 persons. He said that Mustafa Hamzah visited the farm frequently.

At the end of the interview, terrorist Muhammad 'Ali al-Sharqawi showed remorse for taking that course and condemned terrorist operations that target innocent people.

For his part, terrorist 'Ali Qasim admitted that he was trained at one of the Sudanese farms in handling explosives and forging official documents in order to carry out sabotage activities anywhere upon receiving specific instructions.

Terrorist 'Ali Qasim, who is 27 years old and comes from al-Minya Governorate, said that his story began when he traveled to Afghanistan via Saudi Arabia, where he had met some Egyptians who belonged to the Islamic Group.

He added that he joined this group along with people from other Arab countries and received weapons training at one of the camps for a period of 2 and 1/2 years.

He added that he later returned to Saudi Arabia from Afghanistan to perform the minor and major pilgrimages. He then thought about travelling to Bosnia-Herzegovina, but something else happened and he travelled across the Saudi border to Yemen. he went to work there because of the strict measures the Saudi authorities apply on foreigners and because the Saudi authorities often arrest members of Islamic groups and extradite them to their home countries.

Terrorist 'Ali Qasim said in his confession that while he was in Yemen, a man named Shaykh Abu-Hazim took him to Sudan to meet a certain Mustafa Hamzah. He added that as soon as he got to Sudan, he was forced to go to one of the farms there to receive training in the use of weapons, forging official documents, and working with explosives. He explained that the only person who knew him there was Mustafa Hamzah.

He said that after spending four months there, orders were issued for him to travel to Cairo in a group consisting of six members. He did not know the name of the leader.

He added that they entered Cairo along the desert road in a regular car. An apartment was assigned to them and each one was given $1,000 to use until specific instructions were issued to them. He noted that he did not know what sort of instructions would be issued. Terrorist 'Ali Qasim said that he does not know who issued their instructions and that the contact between him and the group, which he knew nothing about, was a person called Ashraf.

Asked why he did not hand himself over to security authorities in Egypt, he said: I am well-known to the authorities.

At the end of the dialogue, terrorist 'Ali Qasim said he regrets very much having been misled by saboteurs who want to destroy the country and kill innocent people. He also affirmed that Islam does not advocate violence.

Russian Ambassador Presents Credentials

NC1508145995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1400 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Russian Federation Ambassador in Cairo Vladimir Godov, who submitted a copy of his credentials.

The ambassador praised the historic relations that link his country to Egypt, reiterating his country's desire to develop these relations in various fields.

Commenting on the situation in Bosnia, the Russian ambassador said that his country believes a peaceful solution to the crisis must be found. He pointed out that Russia sides with none of the parties to the crisis. He added that the dispute in Bosnia has no religious or ethnic nature, since all the antagonists are Slavic in origin.

He pointed out that there are no disagreements in principle regarding this crisis between Russia and the Islamic states. We are both seeking a way out of a crisis that concerns the entire international community, particularly Russia and the Islamic states, he said.

The Russian ambassador said that the soundest solution is to return to the plan the International Contact Group worked out or the peace plan they approved and to hold intensive negotiations under any umbrella and in any place that all the parties to the dispute agree on.

Party President Remarks on Sudan Cited

EA1508211695 Khartoum SUNA in French
1605 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 August (SUNA) — The Egyptian Labor Party's president, Mr. Ibrahim Shukri, today said that some Western and American powers want to subdivide Sudan into smaller states.

In a speech made during the ceremony organized by the Egyptian Labor Party yesterday in Cairo, Mr. Shukri stressed that Arab countries, with Egypt at the forefront, must be careful about the danger which threatens them.

Speaking on the occasion, the Egyptian labor leader denounced the plot under way in Bosnia-Hercegovenia, which involves Western powers, and demanded that Butrus-Butrus Ghali resign from his post, accusing him of being a party to the plot.

New Kuwaiti Envoy on Ties, Iraqi Defections

NC1508151595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1430 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with the new Kuwaiti ambassador, Faysal al-Khalid, who said after the meeting that Kuwait is eager to bolster and develop relations with Egypt in the interest of both countries.

Commenting on the defection of some Iraqi top commanders to Jordan, the ambassador said that this shows that the existing regime is falling apart. He pointed out that Kuwait hopes the matter will end in a way that serves the wellbeing of the Iraqi people in particular and the Arab nation in general.

We view what is happening at present as a step toward restoring Arab cohesion, he said, affirming that Egypt's firm position helps achieve cohesion both of thought and of views.

Touching on the present Arab situation, the Kuwaiti ambassador said that the world is going through a process of reorganization, and, as a part of that world, the same process is occurring in the Arab world. He hoped this stage will culminate in something good for the Arab nation.

Columnist: Saddam's End 'Imminent' After Defection

NC1608050095 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
11 Aug 95 p 16

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[FBIS Translated Text] Obviously, Saddam Husayn's fall is now imminent. This is certainly the end of every dictator who turns a deaf ear to the moans of his people and closes his mind to their concerns and ambitions.

Do you remember what Saddam did to the Arabs in August 1990, five years ago, when on a certain night he swallowed up a whole state?

With that foolish act, Saddam shredded inter-Arab relations in an unprecedented way. He displaced a whole people — the people of Kuwait — and he caused the severest and most horrible disasters for the men, women, young men, and children of Iraq. The Iraqis turned into hungry, sick, bare-footed people after the autocratic and despotic ruler suffered his shameful and resounding defeat!

Has Saddam now realized who really cared for him, for his country, and for all the Arabs? Has he started returning to his senses and realizing that when Husni Mubarak appealed to him 32 times urging him to withdraw from Kuwait he was trying to ward off a looming danger threatening Saddam and the entire Iraqi nation? The president of Egypt knew all the features of the picture, and unlike many leaders, he enjoyed a great talent for analysis and evaluation; moreover, he had close ties with all world leaders. The ruler of Iraq, for many reasons, lacked all of these qualities.

Now we have Saddam Husayn's closest kin deserting him, leaving behind money, power, and privilege to escape from Iraq. They must have realized that things had gotten out of control and that the president, who holds 99 titles, is now in his death throes!

News agencies that yesterday disseminated the news of the defection of General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the Iraqi minister of industry and the official in charge of military industrialization, and his brother Colonel Saddam Kamil Hasan, head of the Republican Guard, were unanimous that the collapse of the regime is now near at hand, because both of these men are among the mainstays of the regime. they are also the husbands of Saddam Husayn's daughters. With their families, they lived a life of luxurious palaces that even the wealthiest of sultans and emperors lack!

The two husbands, together with the two daughters of the autocratic ruler and their children, defected to Jordan and requested political asylum; the Jordanian Government granted it to them within 10 hours. Does this not indicate something strange? Either Saddam will fall in the next few days, which prompted his daughters and their husbands and children to decide to run for their lives so that they would not be "dragged on the ground" or have their bodies torn apart like their father, the leader and mentor used to do to his opponents. Or maybe Saddam himself sensed that his inevitable fate is coming and so he planned to transfer the family in stages, beginning with his two daughters. Perhaps they will be followed later by 'Udayy and Qusayy — the sons — before the turn of Saddam himself comes. It is not unlikely that Jordan knew of the plan beforehand and approved of it; the evidence is the speed with which political asylum was granted and announced. This must be viewed with suspicion and doubt.

Anyway, shortly after his decision to pension off the husbands of his two daughters, the ruler of Iraq yesterday pardoned the Egyptian prisoners in Iraq, who had been accused of several crimes, including — as stated by the decision, which was based on Paragraph C of Article 57 of the Constitution — the crime of refraining from providing information to the authorities and the crime of insulting the symbols of the people, the nation, and the homeland!

Does Saddam deep inside intend to seek asylum in Egypt, it being a secure, stable country that guarantees protection to everybody, and whose people are not known to gloat, seek revenge, or settle scores? If this idea is not in the mind of al-Tikriti, why then did he decide to pardon the Egyptians at this particular time, after the defection, or smuggling, of "his dearest people" out of Iraq?

Anyway, let us wait and see!

Commentary Views 'Only Way' To End Iraq's Suffering

NC1508161495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 Aug 95

[Commentary by Ahmad Sha'ban: "Listening to Reason and Complying with UN Resolutions Is the Only Way To End Iraqi People's Suffering"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What is going on in Iraq — the defection of relatives and persons who are close to the Iraqi regime, their declaration that they will work to overthrow the regime, and the accompanying moves in the entire region — what does it all mean? It appears that the ruling regime in Baghdad is coming apart after the defection of Saddam's two sons-in-law, who were responsible for military and Republican Guard affairs, the two basic pillars on which the Iraqi ruler always depended. But, this is only one view. Another view is that these developments indicate the Iraqi president is still charting his own course, the same course that created numerous problems for the Iraqi people and nation.

Looking at Iraq, we find a nation that has enough resources to make every Iraqi prosperous, to build a modern state with a strong economy, and to still have something left for its neighbors. But instead, the Iraqi ruler used these resources for his personal interests. He started this with a long war against Iran and then a treacherous aggression against neighbor and sister Kuwait. This led Iraq to collapse, created a schism in the Arab world, and depleted Arab resources. The ruler refused to listen to reason and wise voices that advised him to come to his senses and stop aggressions. He neither listened nor responded to the sincere and reasonable appeals of President Mubarak. He persisted in these actions that brought ruin and destruction to Iraq and its people. The people have been suffering since the invasion of fraternal Kuwait, which achieved nothing. The opposite was true; Iraq sustained a major defeat. The ruler did not comply with UN resolutions, which made the international community insist on maintaining the sanctions against Iraq.

We emphasize that the main cause of the Iraqi people's suffering is the ruler's failure to comply with UN resolutions. The regime is stalling for time. We find evidence of this in Iraq's position on the issue of biological weapons. Iraq kept saying that it had no biological weapons, even though the visiting UN mission said otherwise. After five years, Iraq admitted having a program. It notified the United Nations of part of that program, keeping the rest secret. In connection with the biological weapons program, we refer to the exchange of accusations between the Iraqi government and Saddam's son-in-law in Jordan. Each side claims that the other kept the information from the United Nations. The Iraqi government accuses the defecting minister of hiding information. The minister said at a news conference in Amman that he asked the government to provide information on the program and it refused.

We are not discussing which side is telling the truth. What we would like to emphasize here is that information was kept secret. Iraq gave some information away and concealed the rest secret for its own purposes.

We repeat that regardless of the consequences, the present Iraqi crisis shows beyond doubt that the regime in Iraq is following the wrong course. Iraq still refuses to listen to the advice of those who are sincere to its people and call on it to abide by the UN resolutions. This is the right way to alleviate the Iraqi people's suffering and return Iraq to the Arab ranks. Only this will lead to clearing the air and achieving Arab solidarity to serve pan-Arab interests.

12 Villagers Arrested for Arson Attempt on Church

NC1508162995 Paris AFP in English
1422 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Aug 15 (AFP) - Police arrested 12 villagers in north Egypt for trying to burn down a church in revenge for a quarrel between a Christian and a Moslem family over cattle that left seven dead and 18 injured, police said Tuesday [15 August].

The 12 Moslems were arrested on Monday as they attempted to set fire to the church with gasoline in Damyana village, 158 kilometers (100 miles) north of Cairo, police said.

Police, meanwhile, continued their investigations into the row in Damyana on Sunday between the family of a Moslem truck driver and that of a Christian doctor over the price of transporting cattle.

Their argument turned into a shootout in which seven Christians were killed and 18 Moslems injured, the interior ministry said in a statement.

Special Treatment of Minister's Jailed Nephew Denied

NC1508181295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1540 GMT 15 AUG 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)— An official source in the Ministry of Interior has denied a report published today by an opposition newspaper claiming that the nephew of Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation at the Council of Ministers, has been allowed to travel to the United States after being arrested on charges of smuggling narcotics into Egypt.

The source said that the report is false and untrue, part and parcel, pointing out that the cited case concerns charges of possessing narcotics against students Khalid Husayn Ahmad and Shadi Muhammad Mustafa. The charges were made after investigations by the Counternarcotics General Administration in June. The two students were caught in possession of 106 packets of LSD.

The source pointed out that in Civil Affairs Case No. 24 of al-Ma'adi, the two defendants confessed that they got the drugs from their fellow student Karim Ra'uf Butrus in al-'Ajami. Accordingly, legal procedures were taken, the third student was charged in Juvenile Case No. 1577 of Alexandria, and it was decided to remand all the defendants in custody.

The source explained that the Prosecutor General has issued a decision banning reporting on the case until investigations are completed. Hence, the newspapers should have abided by that decision.

The security source confirmed that student Karim Ra'uf Butrus is currently being held in the al-Azbakiyah Juvenile Department pending investigations into the case and in preparation for his transfer to the penal facility in al-Marj, since he is a minor. The source noted that the defendant's remand has been renewed several times; the last was for 45 days starting on 8 August. The remand is due to be renewed on 20 September.

The source said that the report the newspaper published is part of its policy of implicating innocent people in order to distort their public image and thereby smear the reputation of a virtuous man, namely Minister Yusuf Butrus Ghali, who is known for his patriotism and loyalty to his homeland.

The source called on the newspaper to be accurate in the reports it publishes. He also called on the newspaper to refer to the Interior Ministry's information center in order to spare the center the necessity of refuting the reports it is constantly publishing.

The source said that the security agencies detect crimes that originate by any country, no matter which one, because fighting crime is the essence of its job.

Sudan

Rebel Reconciliation Meeting Postponed to 9-13 Oct

AB1508160995 Paris AFP in English 0718 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi, August 15 (AFP) — A reconciliation meeting of some 15 Sudanese rebel groups scheduled to open here Tuesday [15 August] has been postponed to October.

A spokesman for the South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM) said the group had received a note from the Union of Sudan African Parties (USAP), an umbrella group of factions from southern Sudan and the central Nuba Mountains, saying the conference would now take place from October 9 to 13.

No reasons were given for the postponement, but SSIM spokesman David de Chand told AFP that few of the factions had shown interest in the meeting.

"I'm not very optimistic about this meeting," said De Chand.

A spokesman for the largest rebel movement, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said his group had not been informed of the meeting.

De Chand questioned USAP's neutrality in the mediation effort, saying its leader Elliaba Surur had joined the SPLA, which is headed by John Garang.

Tunisia

'Arafat Says Palestinian Issue at Decisive Phase

LD1508181295 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received in Carthage Palace today Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who said that he expressed to President Ben Ali the love and esteem of the Palestinian people for Tunisia and its president for having supported its cause and harbored the PLO at the most difficult times and at the decisive moments.

The Palestinian president further said: I have explained to President Ben Ali the latest developments in the talks between us and the Israelis, and the recent agreement between us, as well as the difficulties we are facing in arriving at a commitment to what was agreed to complete the Israeli withdrawal from all the populated areas, thus paving the way for holding Palestinian elections.

In this respect, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said: I have asked President Ben Ali that he personally and Tunisia should take urgent steps so that the international sides, particularly the U.S. and Russian cosponsors of the peace conference, the European Union, and others will contribute their efforts to encourage the Israelis to show commitment to what was agreed.

The Palestinian president stressed that the Palestinian question is now going through a decisive phase, and in this respect he reiterated his thanks to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali for his interest in and his close following of what the Palestinian leadership is doing.

The audience took place in the presence of Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya, and Hakam Bal'awi, member of the central committee of the Fatah movement.

Saudi Arabia

Round of Jordanian-Saudi Talks Held in Jeddah

JN1608071295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Jordanian delegation, led by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, and a Saudi delegation, led by Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, held a round of talks in the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah last night.

The two sides discussed in detail relations between the two fraternal countries in various areas. The talks were held in an atmosphere of clarity and mutual keenness to promote relations and to reach a common ground through which the two countries can work on activating joint Arab action and restoring Arab cohesion and solidarity in fulfillment of higher Arab interests.

'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti arrived in Jeddah last night on a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during which he will relay a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The message deals with relations between the two sister countries and the means of promoting them in all areas as well as issues of common concern.

Prince Sultan, UK's Soames Discuss Bosnia Situation

LD1508202495 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, received Nicholas Soames, UK minister of state for defense and personal envoy of the UK prime minister, at his palace in Jeddah today. [passage omitted]

They discussed issues of common interest to the two friendly countries. The audience was attended by Minister of State Dr. Musa'id al-'Ayban. Mr. Soames stressed the great and powerful role played by Saudi Arabia on the international scene, under the leadership of His Royal Highness King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Speaking at a news conference in Jeddah this afternoon on his country's role regarding the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mr. Soames said that the aim of his visit to Saudi Arabia is to hear the view of the Saudi leadership on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the contribution that we all could make to the attainment of a peaceful and lasting solution to the problem. He also said: Saudi Arabia is a very powerful country; the Islamic states have important points of view concerning this matter, and it is important that we should consult with them to get to know their views because we are seeking a settlement in weeks, not months. [passage omitted]

Mr. Soames spoke about the political initiatives concerning the Bosnia problem, the presence of UK troops there, and the humanitarian aid given by UK. He pointed to the Serbian violations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and said: There have been many examples at which we are all dismayed, and we all want those who perpetrated these atrocities to be brought to justice. He stressed the UN role in Bosnia, saying that the United Nations did not stop the war but was able to contain it and reduce the losses. The UK minister emphasized the need to find a political solution to the Bosnia problem. He stated that the sole solution is a diplomatic solution. [passage omitted]

Regarding the U.S. plan in Bosnia, Mr. Soames said that the United States has put forward proposals containing elements that could help resolve the problem, and it is now discussing it with the Bosnia Government. These proposals, he said, are fully supported by the EU. Answering a question on the UK's position in the event of the failure of the American initiative, Mr. Soames said: I do not believe, and this is a personal view, that should this initiative fail then the UN forces would continue in this situation. In this case, he said, there should be a major review of the whole issue, because the parties to the conflict would not trust the UN forces. [passage omitted]

British Defense Minister Ends Visit

LD1608093795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0810 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 16 Aug (SPA) — Nicholas Soames, the British minister of state for defense and special envoy of the British prime minister, left Jeddah today at the end of his visit to Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

CDLR Calls Executions 'Judicial Murder'

MS1408135995 London CDLR Monitor in English 13 Aug 95

[Press Release of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, (CDLR) — received by fax 13 August]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

PRESS RELEASE — "Saudi judicial murder marks beginning of new stage in the confrontation between regime and its opposition" says London

based Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights — London, August 13 1995

The beheading Saturday of an Islamic opponent of the Saudi Arabian royal dictatorship after a secret re-trial overturned his original twenty year jail sentence has set the stage for a bloody confrontation between the people and the tyrants said the London based Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights Sunday August 13 1995.

The Martyr, the first in the five year struggle for legitimate rights in Saudi Arabia has been named as 'Abdallah al-Hudayf aged 33 and the father of six children, four boys and two girls.

His two brothers, one of them a University Professor in Mass Media and a distinguished journalist have been handed savage jail sentences in the same case. His elderly father, 74 years old, was also held tortured and released only after he suffered a heart attack.

The martyr 'Abdallah al-Hudayf suffered months of torture in the notorious Al-Hayer prison 17 kilometres south of Riyadh.

During the torture the judicial murderers of the young man claimed that he had "confessed" to having been "dictated" in his crime by the leaders of the CDLR in London. This charge is a lie and CDLR challenges the regime to publish their evidence.

One of his co-accused was sentenced to five years in jail for distributing banned leaflets prepared by the CDLR.

The secret re-trial ordered by the Minister of the Interior Prince Nayf under authorisation from King Fahd himself marks a new low in the already farcical standards of justice in the king kingdom condemned just the previous week by the human rights group Amnesty International.

Professor Muhammad al-Mas'ari the leader of the CDLR issued a communique in London 13.8.95 warning that the regime will bear full responsibility for the consequences of their criminal act in executing the young man which al-Mas'ari said was an act against Islamic Shari'ah law and an act against reason.

"Unprecedentally the regime has published exhaustive details of the reasoning behind the judicial murder while normally they publish only the bare facts of the date time and case number of the executed person, thus showing that the regime realises the gravity of this new step they have taken, and the weakness of it's position.

"The communique claims that all five of the accused committed the offence — the attempted murder of a secret policeman whom they did not name but whom we name as Sa'ud al-Shibrin a notorious torturer and blasphemer — while in fact three of the accused had been in prison for between two and three months at the time of the alleged offence.

"The regime claim in their communique that the men had stockpiled weapons to attack "housing complexes" which begs the question why none of these weapons were used in the alleged crime.

"Instead they say that the martyr threw acid at the torturer which if true would have been an attempt to maim him not kill him. Such an attack even if true would not justify execution under Islamic law and therefore the tyrants while dressing up their crime in religious words merely compound their life of blasphemy.

"The regime now bears the guilt of having taken this innocent soul, leaving behind his wife and six children, and they will answer for it to the people in this life let alone the next life.

"CDLR calls upon the people to offer funeral prayers for the young martyr on Monday evening and calls upon all those who can to visit the murdered man's family to offer their condolences. CDLR extends its own sincere sympathy to the family.

"As well as his young family, this first martyr on the path of reform, leaves behind a blameless reputation and departs this life without a stain against his name; which cannot be said for those who tortured then judicially murdered him," said Professor al-Mas'ari.

"And the unjust people will know what is their fate" Koran V227s26. London, August 13 1995

CDLR Says Judiciary Council Controlled by King

MS1608093895 London CDLR Monitor in English 4 Aug 95

[Bulletin No. 59 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, (CDLR) — received by Internet 14 August]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

News: The High Judiciary Council — Historic Decisions...

The High Judiciary Council has considered the sentences passed against some of the detainees, as mentioned in previous bulletins, as being too lenient and has stressed the necessity of imposing harsher sentences. At the same time, however, sources close to the Council have relayed muted whisperings of instructions arriving from "on high". The decisions of the Council based on these instructions "from above" will confirm the total control of Al Saud over the judiciary. The head of the Council, in an attempt to salvage the remains of his reputation, spoke within private circles about the decisions which are "imposed" upon himself and the Council, often in advance of the actual Council meetings.

The Sit-in at Qahtan...

Numerous dignitaries from the Qahtan tribe protested against Government confiscation of huge areas of land in the south which belong to their tribe. The protest took the form of a "Sit-in" after the Friday prayer in Shaykh Sa'd al-Hajiri Mosque in Khamis Mashayt. A prominent Shaykh from the tribe gave a fiery speech and exposed his anger over the Government's actions. The Shaykh stated that no one could take Al Qahtan's land by force, even if that person was the highest "head" in the country. He was followed by a number of speakers who continued to protest along the same lines. We, in the Committee, applaud such stands, and we confirm to the people the full, legitimate right of each human being to defend his land against forced aggression, and even if people are destined to die while protecting their land, they would still be considered to be martyrs. We also remind the "Youth of the Awakening" to follow the example of such people in their passion for their land. The passion for our faith is even more dear to our hearts than the passion for land, or indeed, life itself. However, both should be sacrificed for our faith.

A New Story of Injustice...

Numerous participants in a real estate project were astonished by a royal decision to cancel their ownership of one of the properties involved in the project and the ownership being transferred to the State. The story is as follows. Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Ibrahim al-Rashudi bought a piece of land from Faysal Ibn-Khalid Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz thirteen years ago. The land covers an area of 9 sq/km. The aim of the Shaykh was to invest in the land for a group of 70 people, all widows and orphans. The Shaykh and the shareholders were extremely satisfied to see the value of the land steadily increase to 350 million riyals, this was all some of the shareholders owned. However, this elation was not to last as the King issued the cancellation of the ownership deeds and issued new documents in the name of the State, obviously without paying any compensation to the legal owners. The shareholders despatched telegrams and letters to the King expressing their anguish at his decision but as usual their protests were of no avail. Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Rashudi still holds the legal ownership deeds, with which, at present, he can do nothing. This special brand of Al Sa'ud injustice is implemented with the sole aim of granting confiscated land to princes who will then sell the land, then the whole operation begins again.

New Activities for the Intelligence Service...

Several months ago, with the help of Allah (SWT), [Almighty] an intelligence network was unveiled. It consists of various nationalities working under mutual orders of the Al Sa'ud intelligence service and those of two other countries. The Committee instigated the necessary precautions with the appropriate authorities in order to counteract the activities of the network. Despite the fact that the Committee has previously indicated in the bulletins the activities of the group and has unveiled those involved, these people are still attempting to further their treachery. Therefore, we warn those involved in the network not to become too enthusiastic in their work, as the results will not be to their advantage, particularly with regard to H.S. who works in the travel business, M.H. who works in the printing department of an Arabic newspaper, M.M. who works as a photographer for an Arabic newspaper and H.K. who works as a teacher in an Arabic School in London and was an Imam of one of the large mosques. We also warn Inspector Munther, who used to work for the intelligence agency of an eastern country, and who has recently joined the embassy staff as an attache.

Al-Mas'ari is Safe...

Many brothers from different regions contacted us enquiring after the well-being of Dr. Mohammed al-Mas'ari, mentioning that there was a rumour circulating inside the Kingdom regarding an assassination attempt on al-Mas'ari's life. The peculiar aspect of the case was that some of the callers mentioned exact details of the alleged attempt. Therefore, we would like to comfort everyone and state categorically that al-Mas'ari and all the members working for the Committee are in good health, safe and sound, and enjoying their freedom. We challenge Al Sa'ud to feel the same! For anyone who needs further confirmation, they are welcome to contact the office themselves. However, if it is destined for al-Mas'ari, or any other Committee member, to be killed for the cause of Allah (SWT), then everyone must be aware that the path to reform, and the movement for change, are not dependent on any one person. Such a holy cause is protected by Allah (SWT) and is under His guidance. Let no one be pessimistic, or worry about the inevitable victory.

New Arrests...

Intelligence personnel in Qasim assaulted the house of 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Asawi, and searched his house thoroughly after first arresting him. 'Abd-al-'Aziz is a student at the al-Qasim branch of Al Imam University. The intelligence forces also assaulted the house of Walid al-Sinaiee. The assault was so sudden and unexpected that

Walid al-Sinaiee took his weapon to protect himself inside his house. The "brave" intelligence personnel used his mother as a human shield to force him into surrender.

The Farmers Rights...

In the past, farmers would count the days and weeks in the delay of payment of their right to a wheat subsidy. However, the delays eventually turned into months rather than weeks, and finally into years, as three years have now gone by and the farmers are still waiting for their subsidies. The farmers have raised their case in the strongest terms by sending telegrams, messages, arranging meetings, sending delegations etc. all with no fruitful conclusion. The most annoying aspect as far as the farmers are concerned is that Al Sa'ud deal with the case as if the subsidies were a gift from them. They do not begin to appreciate that the farmers have been forced into spending large sums of money on their farms on the basis of false promises from the Government. Many farmers now face the dilemma of being hugely in debt. We would advise the farmers to be more practical and to find a more realistic solution to their problems, other than the telegrams, letters etc. already mentioned, before all their "rights" are transferred to Sultan, Khalid Ibn-Sultan, Mohammed Ibn-Fahd etc. People who want their rights should be prepared to undergo sacrifices for those rights or they face losing forever.

The Psychological War...

After the abysmal failure of the authorities to change the stands of most of the reformers and preachers, even minutely, has forced them into trying out new methods. Hence we now face the psychological war perpetrated against the reformers. This includes a pathetic attempt to weaken the trust between the detainees by spreading false rumours. Many obnoxious methods are used, and a great number of detainees have been forced to experience extensive psychological pressure in attempts to "brainwash" them, or to convince them that the personalities they follow are either spies, opportunists, or so weak that they do not mind implicating others to ensure their own safety and freedom. The Intelligence force has been instructed by the authorities to spread a number of false rumours in order to raise suspicion against the behaviour, relations and aims of some of the important personalities. Despite the fact that such activities are doomed to failure and are well known amongst the people, it is still important to mention this and to warn our Brothers against falling into this trap.

The Application of the "al-Jamiah" Project...

Within the framework of the implementation of the al-Jamiah Project, and the recommendations in the al-Jamiah report to Nayif, al-'Ubaylan was appointed as the manager of the Islamic Affairs Office in Ha'il, in apparent gratitude for his treachery against the reformers and preachers. The position to which he was appointed required the qualification of PhD. Thirty highly qualified people applied for the job, but nevertheless, al-'Ubaylan was appointed even though he possesses a BA and not a PhD. The Education Ministry implemented the instructions of the Interior Ministry in transferring seven teachers from the al-Rhuss High School to other remote areas, after they had been reported by one of the al-Jamiah group in the al-Rhuss area, namely 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khalyfah, the Imam of the al-Jandal Mosque.

Sultan's Jealousy...

Under the directions of Sultan, the Saudi media and the supporting satellite channels have begun to attempt to enhance the image of the so-called charity institution of Prince Sultan, not surprisingly in a most boring manner. Those close to the Sudairi group have mentioned that Salman has been monopolising charity activities, as he is the president of all the official committees collecting donations, as well as being the head of the Al-Birr Organisation and having his name at the head of the organisation committed to the welfare of the disabled. All this has come to the envious attention of Sultan. These many activities have provided Salman with good relations with many dignitaries and charitable people, which was the main cause of Sultan's jealousy. Hence the attempts by Sultan to enhance his name in the field of charity work. However, it would seem that his new project has come too late, because if Sultan wishes to enhance his image and overtake Salman, then he must first remember that Salman is far more cunning than him, particularly as Salman has managed to plan most of the conspiracies and crimes against the nation while placing his brothers into the forefront to take the blame before the nation and world.

The Second Issue of al-Shariiyah...

In the next two days inshallah, the second issue of the al-Shariiyah magazine will be available, and the Committee would like to express its thanks to all those who contributed with ideas, thoughts, articles etc. The Committee would like to mention the following with regard to obtaining copies of the magazine. Firstly, for those who wish to receive the issue by modem. We advise them to use a modem of speeds greater than 14400. Secondly, for those receiving the magazine through Internet. There will be a slight delay but the issue should be ready soon inshallah. Thirdly, regarding the Brothers who sell the magazine inside the Kingdom. We advise them to unify the price, as many people buying the magazine have complained about the variations in price. Fourthly, for the Brothers who wish to receive the magazines by post. They must first send us their subscription and their address.

Labour Strikes and Demonstrations...

A large number of labourers belonging to one of the companies in the area gathered in front of the Government building in al-Dowadni City, to protest against several months non-payment of wages. This demonstration took place after a few days of strike. Eyewitnesses mentioned that the demonstrators threw rubbish and trash at the Government building and there were reports of clashes with the security police. The demonstrations and strikes are still being repeated, all due to the delays in payment of salaries and wages.

You and Your Land - To Al Sa'ud...

The King granted his nephew, Yusuf Ibn-Sa'ud Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, a huge piece of land in the Dirass area of Qasim, on the outskirts of Buraydah. The people of the area protested that the land given to the prince was their land and they possessed the legitimate documents for ownership of the land. The reply to their claim was to the effect that the Kingdom was called the Saudi Kingdom and therefore all the land was actually Al Sa'ud's land and that what people own with deeds is only a temporary "lending" of the land which Al Sa'ud can reclaim at any time!

CDLR Comments on Changes in Cabinet

MS1608103295 London CDLR Monitor in English 11 Aug 95

[Bulletin No. 60 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudia Arabia, (CDLR) — received by Internet 14 August]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right To Know — The Ministerial Reshuffle — Under a Microscope...

The recent ministerial and administrative changes in the Kingdom were a first for Al Sa'ud with regard to the scale and number of personalities involved. Such wide sweeping changes inevitably brings about various questions: Why did Al Sa'ud take such "courageous" steps at this particular time? What is expected to result from such changes? Is there actually any significance in these quite insubstantial changes?

It does not require much intelligence or thought to conclude that the changes that have materialised are only numerically, a change of certain personalities, whilst the policies of Al Sa'ud and of Fahd in particular, have not changed in the slightest. There has not been, for example, any change in political, economic, social or military policies. In fact, the recent upheavals have not even touched upon those ministers from the royal family, despite the fact that the official justification for the reshuffle was in order to bring forward new faces to the main positions. If that were the case, then the changes should almost certainly have fallen upon royal shoulders. Sultan, for instance, has been defence minister for over thirty years and could even be considered for the title of the "longest reigning minister" on record!! Sultan's many years in the ministry not only represent spectacular failure but also present an incomparable lesson in tyranny and abuse of power and position. The same could also be said of Nayeff, the interior Minister, and Mutt'ib, the Minister for Housing and General services. In addition, the three ministers mentioned above are the only ministers bereft of any commendable qualifications whatsoever. Nayif, for example, was even unable to complete primary education, while other ministers are in possession of doctorates and other higher degrees. Despite this damning evidence, the recent changes have failed to reach such mentally and academically retarded figures.

Any follower of the state of events in the Kingdom could be forgiven for failing to notice even a small indication of real change on social, economic, political and security levels, as the squandering and embezzlement of public money has continued unabated. The total control by Al Sa'ud is still the norm as they continue to rule with oppressive and terrorising behaviour.

The personalities which were so carefully chosen for the changes are definitely of the "yes master" type who have shown slavish devotion to Al Sa'ud throughout their careers. Several of them have previously been employed as spies and agents for the intelligence forces, whilst others have written a number of books in feeble attempts to present Fahd's political and petroleum policies in a scientific and academic manner. Yet another figure was previously a member of a royal entourage.

We come to the question of why have Al Saud undertaken such changes? The answer requires the contemplation of the present realities in the Kingdom and the various pressures upon Al Sa'ud in recent times. It is our belief that one of the main reasons for this large reshuffle of non-royal figures is that the changes are an attempt to convince the Americans in particular, and also those who have repeatedly requested the King to implement reform, that the King has actually brought about real change and that such a move is one step along the road of reform. Fahd has striven hard to present these changes to Western institutions, through various Western public relations companies, as being a huge step forward for the Kingdom.

Another reason behind the upheaval is the wave of public dissatisfaction presently sweeping the Kingdom and the feeling of the general public that they are being made to suffer on all fronts. This is especially sensed with regard to oppression, detention, torture, suspension and withdrawal of freedom and human rights and also the steep decline in the level of service in education, health, utilities etc.

With these superficial changes, Fahd is attempting to delude and deceive the public into a false sense of renewal and revival. Both inside and outside the Kingdom, the Saudi press and media have made great efforts to present the changes as an optimistic and enlightened step towards reform.

The reshuffle is also an attempt to try and pull the carpet from under the feet of the opposition, who have continually managed to embarrass the regime on many fronts. The regime has been quite desperate in their attempts to be viewed as being the ones taking the initiative which for many years they have failed to do and are still, in fact, operating on a "reactionary" level. This is the reason behind Al Sa'ud's attempts to magnify the importance of the recent changes. They want to deceive the public into believing that for once they are the ones taking the initiative, rather than merely reacting to the initiatives of others. It is Al Sa'ud's dearest wish to place the opposition into the "reactionary" platform. Another important note to be considered is that the regime has recently taken steps to improve relations with a good number of neighbouring countries, beginning with Yemen and the Gulf States, and ending with Jordan, Sudan and Libya. Al Sa'ud have finalised long running disputes in which their previous stands had been particularly stubborn and un-cooperative, such as in the defining of borders etc.

We believe that the aim behind the "silencing" of neighbours and the deceiving of the public with superficial change is in order to allow Al Sa'ud to devote all their efforts and time solely to the opposition, and therefore to enable Al Sa'ud to hit the opposition without mercy, whilst all the time hiding behind a delusionary facade of reform and international co-operation.

A further question is; what is going to happen as a result of the reshuffle? The answer to this comes in two parts. The first part is well known, and that is the continued decline in the Kingdom, as we have stated previously so many times. The second part deals with the future plans of Fahd and his brothers regarding arrests, detentions, silencing of critical voices etc.

The recent changes have occurred alongside the decision to proceed with collective sackings and transfers to remote areas, both of which have been the fate of numerous university professors and activists. There has also been an increase in arrests and arbitrary courts set up to deal with speedy convictions. Perhaps even more alarming is that which we have learned recently, the prison authorities have once again resorted to the use of torture. Its use has even now reached those who had previously been left alone and new types of torture have been used which are exceptionally cruel and which leave deep psychological and physical scars on the individual tortured.

The Committee has received information that a new campaign of arrests will be carried out against groups who would never expect to be the subject of such oppression, never having been involved in any type of opposition but mainly being involved in preaching. The authorities hope to utilise the fact that the general public will still be occupied with the new changes, in order to rage a new campaign of arrests without resistance.

The decision was taken after the recommendation of the Egyptian ex- interior minister, Zaki Badr and the colleagues accompanying him. They recommend that all Islamists are evil, and that those who espouse preaching and reform are the fuel by which other groups are able to raise their voices. Yet another significant point regarding the recent changes, is the notably strong influence of the Sudairi group, as most of the new appointments were the choice of Sultan and Salman. However, the feelings of the Americans were also taken into consideration, as the newly appointed petroleum minister considers himself to be more "American" than the Americans themselves! Also noticeable were Fahd's failed attempts to exclude Sa'ud al-Faysal, due to the pressure from the other wings of the family.

It should also be noted that the change in position of finance minister brought an ex-minister back onto the scene, that is Suleyman al-Salim. It is thought that the reason behind the return of an ex-minister to a sensitive position is in order to ensure the confidentiality and secrecy of the financial information of the Kingdom, rather that face the necessary upheaval of appointing a new "face." Suleiman As-Salim has been tried before with regard to obeying orders and keeping secrets, which, after all, are the most important qualifications for such a prestigious position as far as Al Saud are concerned.

Finally, perhaps the most appropriate description put forward regarding the new changes is that they have no colour, no taste, but the stench is repulsive!

News...

The Reform and Advice Organisation Replies to the Reshuffle...

The Reform and Advice Organisation issued its 17th Communique, which was their official reply to the latest changes in the Kingdom. The communique confirmed that the situation within the Kingdom remains essentially unchanged with respect to all Government policies on both domestic and international fronts.

The communique was presented in the form of an open letter to the King, placing the responsibility for the destruction of the Kingdom firmly upon his shoulders. The communique stated quite emphatically that the regime had lost all traces of Islamic legitimacy and therefore must be replaced. The resignation of the King and all his government and entourage was demanded in the strongest terms. In fact, the communique considers that the reasons for calling for the removal of Fahd are actually much greater than those that caused the removal of King Sa'ud.

More Arrests...

The campaign of arrests shows no signs of abatement, and actually seems to be increasing in intensity.

In Mithneb, two well known figures were arrested on Sunday — Khalid Ibn-Suleyman al-Waddahi and 'Abd-al-Rahman Ibn-Hamad al- Nakthan. From the number of recent arrests in Mithneb, it would appear that the area has been specifically targeted by the authorities, most likely as a result of the active Islamic awakening there and the highly visible preaching activities. The people of the area have shown great sympathy for the scholars and reformers.

New Publications...

Issue 17 of Ahrar al-Jowf was published last week, and discussed the fact that the veil al-Saud had drawn over the people for so long has finally been lifted.

The issue praised the stands of the imprisoned scholars and their steadfastness in the face of oppression.

The third issue of "Message from the Heart" bulletin referred to the same subject, and appealed to the youth to act and participate wherever and whenever possible. Other bulletins such as al-Nazir and al-Islah continue with their publications.

Many observers have reported vast quantities of the various publications being distributed every week..

His Excellency and the Intelligence Report...

The Embassy of the Custodian of the Sacred Mosques presented a detailed report to British officials regarding the activities of the members of the Committee. The report contains personal information on each member, as well as their role on the Committee, with all the information being gathered from intelligence files and various other information collected from inside the Kingdom. The Embassy made an attempt to convince the British officials receiving the report that it was in the British interest to conspire to expel one of the leading Committee members in a legal manner.

The report was aimed at placing the responsibility for what is currently happening to Al Sa'ud on the head of the figure they so dearly wish to see expelled.

The Committee has seen a copy of the report, the wording of which appeared to present the impression that the information contained in the report was invaluable from an intelligence point of view, whereas in actual fact, the information is common knowledge throughout the whole Arab community. Perhaps the most amazing aspect of the report is that His Excellency, the "Doctor," was the one who prepared and presented the report so enthusiastically, and then followed up the case with the authorities.

The Committee has received enough information to confirm without a shred of a doubt that the "Doctor" is no different to any other of Al Sa'ud's slaves and henchmen.

A Book and a Writer...

A new book titled, "Why the Boom Went Bust" by Mohammed Hasan Siddiq, has been published recently in both America and Britain.

The book analyses the events leading up to the collapse of the Saudi economy, and discusses the relationship between the collapse, the modern history of the Kingdom, its social structure and the reform activities. The book also presents suggestions as to how the Kingdom may be saved from destruction.

Mohammed Siddiq is a well known writer who was born in Medina, and who worked in the Petroleum University at its beginning. In fact, he is considered to be one of the prominent figures in the founding of the university. He also worked in King 'Abd-al-'Aziz University and was sent to the USA to complete his PhD. Since the start of the 1980's the author commenced with his writing of critical articles and books. This prompted the Saudi authorities to cease payment of his salary and to request his return to the Kingdom. However, feeling danger to his freedom if he returned, Mohammed Siddiq remained in the USA and continued to assist those he believed to be attempting to save the Kingdom from disaster.

Many of his well known books and articles published by the American media have been with regard to reform activities. Presently, the author is assisting both the Committee, and the Reform and Advice Organisation.

Family Feud...

The feud within the royal family has taken on a new dimension, and has changed from "group" to that of individual feuding. Every member now acts as if he were the state. An example can be seen in Prince Nayif. As Interior Minister, he acts as if everything of importance revolves around his department and his concerns regarding the Committee and all Islamic activities. Therefore, Nayif feels that all internal and foreign policies must centre around this.

At the same time, Sultan is actively occupied with ensuring his future position in the event of King Fahd's death, or even perhaps before that event. Therefore Sultan is attempting to strengthen his relations with various groups in the Kingdom, such as economists and businessmen, in the belief that their support will be of vital importance in the future.

Salman, on the other hand, continues to send the same signals to his full brothers and also to Crown Prince 'Abdullah, declaring his allegiance to both in order to secure his position if either side comes to power. Salman has also made great efforts to convince the Americans that he is the man for the future, in the hope that the Americans may nominate him for the position of Prince Minister or Crown Prince.

Salman's group also fear the activities of others who receive the support of the Americans, and may take exceptional steps to bar any further advancement of these groups.

The Sudairi group may take heed of the Qatari experience, where the son seized power during his father's reign, in order to make certain that they control the situation and keep Abdullah, Sa'ud al- Faysal and others out of the power scenario, before they themselves are ousted.

Important Note...

With regard to the Polling method mentioned in previous issues, we would like to state that due to problems with the company with whom we made the agreement, the Committee has decided to return to direct fax transmission until the problem is satisfactorily resolved.

We therefore appeal to the Brothers to prepare their faxes for Tuesday night.

Yemen

Opposition Leader Claims Attack by Government

NC1508100895 Paris AFP in English
0913 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, Aug 15 (AFP)—The Yemeni government said an opposition leader was attacked by fellow party members in a dispute over money, denying allegations it had tried to assassinate him.

'Abd-al-Wahid Hawwash, deputy head of the Yemeni branch of Iraq's ruling Ba'th Party, accused the government of trying to kill him when 20 gunmen opened fire on his car here on Monday [14 August]. He gave no evidence.

"These allegations are without foundation, because 'Abd-al-Wahid Hawwash knows above all the real reasons and motive behind this attack," a spokesman for the security services said.

"A financial dispute involving Hawwash and several other Ba'th party members led to this attack," the spokesman told the official SABA' news agency. The attack was "criminal rather than political."

The spokesman said the police were "searching for the culprit who recently returned to Sanaa from Baghdad."

Yemeni authorities have arrested several dozen people in a crackdown on the opposition launched in March, particularly in the southern province of Aden.

Saddam Tells Cabinet All 'Deviations' To Be Exposed

JN1608130795 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1120 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Report on "important statement" by President Saddam Husayn to 30th session of the Council of Ministers; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect and support him, has stated that until the revolution 70 percent of Iraq's population had been illiterate, half of whom were barefoot and oppressed. The colonialists plundered their country's resources, closing in Iraq's face the opportunities of progress and awakening after it was the master of science and culture in the world. How can such a country rise from its setback? Does it rise with a traditional method, the method of the ruler and the ruled, or by a method that restores the wealth and dignity of the country and reveals to the people their real resources, freeing them on a wide scale—a method which happened in reality?

His excellency said: We have passed through difficult, extraordinary circumstances because our rise was extraordinary. We were a country with the above descriptions to a country whose scientific and economic development is feared by the colonialists and those who plot against it, fearing its arm which is supported by the genuine conviction in the values of justice and freedom.

His excellency wondered: Does this rise take place without losses, deviations, or the betrayal of some? Definitely not. In our history and in the stories of peoples progress, there are several examples. However, the difference between us and the others is that the deviation or the betrayal could have gone unnoticed had the methods of work for progress been traditional as is the case in many countries around us and in the world where there is appeasement for deviations in their various forms and on a wide scale in the Western states for instance. Our march in Iraq has distinguished itself from others by establishing a level of understanding and behavior to the Iraqis, teaching them that being builders and swords is good—traits which the Iraqis do not want only for themselves but for others as well. Any deviation from them has become visible and deplored by all. Anyone who deviates from the values of construction and jihad; anyone who does not become a builder or a sword will find himself exposed no matter how he tries to hide himself or flee to the ranks that oppose this march.

These remarks came in an important statement by the president when he chaired the Council of Ministers' 30th session.

Addressing the members of the council, the president said: In order to reduce the opportunities for deviation, you must not propose wide-scale or unfamiliar powers unless they are intended to carry out definite tasks and for a certain period of time. You must abide by law. If you find that the law restricts the moves required to carry out certain tasks or aims, then you must not bypass the law unless by another law so that the state can be revered and everyone will know their rights and duties.

His excellency said: Those who plot to stop the march in order to return Iraq backward are amazed that the blockade, which is in its sixth year, has not been able to twist the will of the Iraqis. They know that if they lift the blockade, its effects will end within a short time and Iraq will continue to rise with a swifter pace, which is the right of Iraq and the nation. They are aware that we are true to God, true to ourselves, and true in our approach, and that our hearts and consciences are with the majority at all times and in all cases.

In its 30th session, the Council of Ministers discussed points on the agenda, which included a number of organizational and financial issues, and adopted appropriate measures and decisions.

MIO Director 'Disappears' on Vacation in Jordan

NC1508170195 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi opposition sources say that the director general of Iraq's Military Industrialization Organization [MIO], Sa'di Abu-Rutaybah, who was vacationing in Amman, has left his place of residence for an unknown destination.

On the other hand, sources belonging to the Unified Iraqi National Congress have revealed that Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Barzan al-Tikriti, might also join the ranks of Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan. These sources add that Barzan al-Tikriti refuses to execute the presidential order given to him on 10 August to return immediately to Baghdad to discuss various urgent matters.

It is noteworthy that his brother Watban was removed from his post as minister of interior and was the target of an assassination attempt by the bodyguards of the Iraqi president's son on 13 March 1995. He was placed under house arrest in al-'Awja village, which is close to the town of Tikrit. Watban telephoned his brother Barzan and asked him to rescue him from the head of the regime and his two sons. He stressed that he feared their designs on his life.

More on Death of Watban, Saddam Family Situation

NC1508174195 Paris AFP in English 1624 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Aug 15 (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's half-brother Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan died in Baghdad five days after he was shot by Saddam's eldest son 'Udayy, a Kurdish opposition group said Tuesday [15 August].

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) claimed that he died on Sunday night in Baghdad after being injured on August 8 but there was no independent confirmation of its claim.

Another opposition group, the Iraqi National Congress, said it understood Watban was still alive after the shooting.

The PUK charged in a statement here: "'Udayy fired last Tuesday at Watban, his wife Surayya and their children during a ceremony, killing Watban's wife, his son 'Ala' and three of his guards on the spot."

"The president's half-brother died five days later at (al-'Arifiyyah) hospital in Baghdad," the PUK added, quoting a doctor at the hospital.

However, in London, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jabbar, spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress (INC), said: "Watban is not dead, but his eldest son Ahmad Ibn-Watban, as well as two of his bodyguards were shot dead last Tuesday by 'Udayy during an altercation.

"Watban is still in hospital in Iraq after being hit by eight bullets in the chest and leg which were fired by 'Udayy," he added.

Intense speculation about the fate of the president's half-brother has followed the defection to Jordan of two of Saddam's sons-in-law, one of them industry minister General Husayn Kamil Hasan, last Tuesday.

Amman granted political asylum to them and their wives, both daughters of the Iraqi president.

The Iraqi daily BABIL, run by 'Udayy, reported last Wednesday that Hasan was wounded by accident when a relative fired his weapon to celebrate the anniversary of the end of the Iran-Iraq war.

"While one member of his family fired his automatic rifle into the air in joy, he lost his balance and bullets hit Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan in the leg," the newspaper said.

Saddam sacked his half-brother as interior minister in May and appointed him as an advisor.

'Abd-al-Jabbar said the situation in Baghdad was "chaotic and it is 'Udayy who holds the reins of power now and not his father."

"Recently, the former army chief of staff General Iyad Subayh al- Rawi was arrested for refusing to become governor of al-Ramadi province, north of Baghdad, after Saddam Husayn nominated him," he said.

'Abd-al-Jabbar said the general, originally from al-Ramadi, had "refused to be a tool of the government and continue repression against the population."

The PUK said that two more of Saddam's relatives had fled Iraq for an unknown country.

The Kurdish group identified one as Majid 'Adnan Khayrallah, son of Saddam's brother-in-law 'Adnan Khayrallah. 'Adnan Khayrallah, a former Iraqi defence minister, died in 1989 in a helicopter accident.

The other was named as Husayn 'Ali al-Majid, but the PUK did not specify his relation to the Iraqi president.

He could be related to another former defence minister 'Ali Hassan al-Majid, a cousin and advisor of Saddam who pledged the family's loyalty to the president on Sunday following the defection of their relative Husayn Kamil Hasan.

The PUK statement did not say when the two fled.

It added that "the regime's special forces encircled Baghdad at dawn Tuesday." There was no immediate independent confirmation of its report.

Watban's Son Said Killed by 'Udayy

NC1508195395 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Aug 95

[Statement by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jabbar, chief editor of the Unified Iraqi National Congress newspaper, to MBC correspondent Sa'd Khalaf, in London; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The information available to us is that the person who died after being shot by 'Udayy is Ahmad, the son of [Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's half-brother] Watban. In this incident, Watban himself was wounded and two of his bodyguards were killed, as was one of Saddam's bodyguards. [passage omitted]

For all practical purposes, 'Udayy is now the top man. He is the actual ruler of Iraq after his father left the management of many detailed matters up to him, particularly now that the ruling family has disintegrated. 'Udayy aspires to be the top man; however, I believe that would place him in great danger because he cannot play the role Kim Il-Song's son played in North Korea.

Sources Detail U.S. Contacts With Hasan on Defection

TA1508181995 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 14 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab sources have disclosed that the defection of General Husayn Kamil Hasan to Jordan was arranged two months ago and that he had held contacts in this regard with Washington and some Arab states through one of the Iraqi ambassadors abroad. The ambassador was helped by his wife, who used to visit Baghdad often under the pretext that her mother was sick.

The sources said that the U.S. Administration was aware of the date of Gen. Husayn and his companions' arrival in Jordan. Hence, more than 10 American officials from various agencies welcomed him at the Jordanian-Iraqi border.

The same sources added that the defectors are expected to leave Amman secretly for a Western country.

AL-MANAR has learned that the Iraqi minister and his companions crossed the border into Jordan in 10 black Mercedes cars flying Iraqi flags.

The sources note the possibility that Gen. Hasan might become Iraq's next president.

INC Issues Statement on Hasan Defection

MS1508143995 London Iraqi National Congress Press Release in English 15 Aug 95

[Received by fax]

[Statement issued by the INC on 15 August]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "The Iraqi National Congress [INC] has taken careful note of recent developments surrounding the departure of Husayn Kamil and observes that this has come as a direct result of the total disintegration of the regime's power base. As such, it presents both the opposition and the Iraqi people with new opportunities to work together to oust the dictator, Saddam Husayn, along with his criminal inner circle.

"Husayn Kamil's statements during the Amman news conference on Sunday represent a scathing indictment of the regime and illustrate the clear linkage between the regime's crimes and the onerous sanctions faced by the Iraqi people. Furthermore, Saddam's despotism has led ineluctably to the total isolation of Iraq from both Arab states and the international community at large.

"The INC affirms that Saddam Husayn and his pernicious regime must be held accountable for the continuation of sanctions and the harsh privations of the Iraqi people.

"The INC welcomes the current stance being taken by the Jordanian Government against Saddam and calls upon other Arab countries to adopt a similar position in order to ward off pressure from Iraq. The INC looks forward to firm and cohesive support from governments and peoples who understand the plight of the Iraqi population and are willing to support the Iraqi opposition in its ultimate project — the regime's removal.

"The erosion of the very foundation of Saddam's regime will grant greater opportunities to the Iraqi people, members of the armed forces, and officials within the ruling party, to finally rid Iraq of this band of criminals.

"The INC reiterates the basic programme of the opposition, which is to mobilise forces, along with the Iraqi people themselves, to overthrow Saddam Husayn and replace his regime with a democratic and pluralistic government which reflects the will of the Iraqi people.

"The INC is currently doing its utmost to combat the oppression and suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the criminal and iniquitous practices of Saddam's regime. The INC calls upon fellow Arab states and the international community to act with renewed vigour in applying pressure on the Iraqi dictator to quit his post forthwith in order to finally relieve the people of the consequences of his illegal and unholy acts.

"The INC considers that only the removal of the despot himself, along with his repressive and arbitrary regime, will rehabilitate Iraq and enable it to regain its place among the ranks of the Arab world and the international community. Only if Saddam is ousted will the dreadful hardship of sanctions end, as Iraq normalises relations with its regional neighbours and finally attains the stability and security which it should rightfully enjoy.

"The time has come for the removal of this dictator so that the Iraq can finally choose its own destiny, freely and democratically, and in accordance with the boundless will of its people."

Former Intelligence Chief Welcomes Hasan Defection

LD1508174995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1638 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 15 Aug — Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, the secretary general of the opposition Iraqi National Movement and former head of

Iraqi military intelligence said that the priorities of the movement's political plan were to bring down the Iraqi regime, recognize the borders of the State of Kuwait, and maintain security in the Gulf.

In a statement released here today after a series of meetings with members of the Iraqi National Movement and some opposition leaders, al-Samarra'i said that the movement asserted its belief in the inevitability of the fall of Saddam's criminal regime, refusal to negotiate with it, and the establishment of a free and democratic regime in Iraq.

He added that the movement stressed the need to do away with all types of sectarianism and chauvinism, recognize the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait and its borders as determined by the United Nations, condemn Saddamist aggression against Kuwait, and for Iraq to become an effective source of stability in regional and pan-Arab security, and cooperate with its brothers to maintain security in the Arabian [as received] Gulf.

He pointed out that the movement had received with great interest the news of the flight of Gen. Husayn Kamil [Hasan] to Jordan, and after discussions with the movement's cadres inside and outside Iraq and consultations with opposition forces and prominent figures, the movement announced its welcome for the step taken by Gen. Kamil and any breakaway from the dictatorial regime.

He added: We are looking forward to learning about the political policy which Gen. Kamil intends to follow.

In its statement, the movement called on army commanders and leaders of the party and security organizations in Iraq to take the initiative, move to the people's trench, and overcome the complex of embarrassment of outwardly remaining with the regime, and that they would find that their brothers in the opposition forces would be their best supporters and they would be accorded the respect of brother Arabs.

In conclusion, he stressed that the day of salvation from the regime was close, and that the events witnessed in Iraq recently proved that.

Opposition Groups Comment on Defection Significance

MM1608103795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Aug 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Opposition Sets Conditions for Dealing With Saddam's Son-in-Law; Calls For Cooperation With Army"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — Iraqi opposition figures and organizations have expressed varied reactions to the possibility of dealing with the Iraqi president's son-in-law, Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, who defected to Jordan last week and pledged to topple President Saddam Husayn's regime by force.

Hani al-Fukayki, deputy chairman of the Iraqi National Congress Executive Council [INCEC], said: "It must be acknowledged that there are several types of opposition against Saddam's regime: opposition from within the (Ba'th) party and from within the regime. These differ from other opposition tendencies in terms of their views. However, they share the same common denominators. This includes concrn for Iraq's unity and an interest in easing the blockade and the suffering from political terrorism and restoring Iraq to its previous status in order to play its role as a Middle Eastern Arab state. First and foremost among these common denominators is getting rid of Saddam."

He added: "We are not against any change to be carried out by our brothers and comrades leaders of the Army and the party in Baghdad. On the contrary, we urge them to bring about this change today. We are the opposition, which represents the most important aspirations of our Iraqi people. And it is seeking to establish a democratic, pluralistic alternative based on respect for constitutional institutions — an alternative in which parliament is the source of authority and legislation, and in which Kurdish national rights and human rights are respected. We will deal with any future alternative in the light of its willingness to espouse and implement these demands. With regard to what is said about the responsibility of this or that person or this or that institution for the bloodshed and destruction afflicting Iraq and the international community and the cause of this historic defeat, Iraqi courts and the judiciary will have their final say in this connection. We the opposition have made the accusations and prepared a legal suit, but we are not judges to pass death sentences on this or that person now. Anyone who respects Iraq and its people and cares for their future should respect the law and the judiciary first. We are not prepared to pursue the policy Saddam has been pursuing toward his opponents."

He appealed to "all Iraqi Kurdish and Arab forces not to repeat past mistakes in 1958 after the 14 July revolution or in the middle seventies when certain forces and parties abandoned the agreements and demands for which they had been promoting."

He said that "Iraqi national forces are required to unite more than ever and to adhere to their demands vis-a-vis human rights, public freedoms, drawing up permanent constitution for the country, and holding free and democratic elections. The more united these forces are, the more likely a new leader will respond to these demands."

He added: "We are willing to meet with those seeking to topple Saddam on the basis of these foundations." He thanked King Husayn of Jordan and the Jordanian Government, hoping that "further pressure will be exerted to besiege Saddam Husayn and his regime." He urged "all Arab states, especially Egypt and Syria, to participate in these pressures, because the Iraqi people cannot bear any further suffering and bloodshed, and Saddam must go."

Dr. Latif Rashid, deputy chairman of the INCEC, has said that cooperating with Husayn Kamil "is not on the cards as yet." He told AL-HAYAH that "replacing one person by another without making a radical change in the regime's policy will not solve Iraq's problems. The Congress' aim is not to reach power, but, rather, to obtain the rights. Its main aim is to establish a regime that respects human rights and the minorities and is based on a federation."

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Islamic al-Da'wah Party in London has denied that the party is willing to meet with Husayn Kamil. The spokesman said that "the defection to Jordan of Husayn Kamil and his brother (Lieutenant Colonel Saddam Kamil), with Saddam's daughters (Raghd and Rana), reveals the scale of the crisis rocking the regime and the worsening political conditions in Iraq, which have reached the ruling family."

The spokesman added in a statement to AL-HAYAH: "The regime has reached a state of confusion and impotence in the face of its suffocating crisis. While we believe that the abandonment of the regime by those linked to it is in the interests of the opposition movement and weakens the regime, it does not mean that we are willing to extend a hand of cooperation to those whose hands are stained with the blood of Iraq's sons and who were among the regime's pillars, such as Husayn Kamil and his brother. They have to provide evidence of their sincere opposition to the regime before they can expect to be pardoned by our people."

The Iraqi Communist Party Central Committee has welcomed "the separation of any civilian or military official from Saddam and his clique." In a statement, a copy of which AL-HAYAH has received, it stressed "toppling the dictatorial regime and establishing a democratic alternative through the support of the forces of our people and the honorable military personnel in the Armed Forces." It also urged the opposition forces to unite their ranks in order "to speed up the day of salvation." And it appealed to "the masses and the sons of the Armed Forces to revive the solidarity of the Army and the people."

The Iraqi National Grouping said that what has happened "is the culmination of the worsening conflicts inside the ruling family and reveals Saddam's false claims that he has pardoned the opposition. His most close relatives are separating from him and escaping from his hellish regime."

The Nasirite Unionist Grouping has urged "national and Islamic" forces to reactivate "internal action and mobilize all energies and to join the sons of our people and their Armed Forces to finish off what is left of the bloodthirsty regime and to establish a pluralistic alternative."

Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, has been quoted as saying that he "is willing to work with Husayn Kamil in the field." Dr. Hamid al-Bayyati, the assembly's representative in London, has pointed out that when al-Hakim was asked what his position would be if Husayn Kamil requested a meeting with him, he said: "We have at this stage presented a plan based mainly on field action. Any field action will be considered and thoroughly studied. Because our first aim is to change conditions inside Iraq and to rescue Iraq from the tragedy it is experiencing. This is why we say that any action aimed at achieving this aim will be considered. The more it is in the interests of the Iraqi people and this aim, the more we will respond to it."

West 'Exaggerating' Importance of Defections

MM1508144295 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14 Aug 95 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "Defection of the In-Laws in Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nobody would disagree that the flight of General Husayn Kamil and his brother to Jordan was the most significant victory scored by the United States in its war against the Baghdad regime and the severest personal and political blow to President Saddam Husayn since he assumed power, but what we would disagree with the Western experts and analysts on is their exaggerating the man's capabilities and ability to hurt the regime internally and externally and their going so far as to see him as a substitute for the Iraqi president in case the "miracle" change expected by the Arabs and the United States occurs. Opposition by remote control stands little chance of success no matter how many billions are placed at its disposal.

The man may be a mine of information about the military industries and programs he was responsible for, and he may know security secrets which nobody else knows, not because he is a genius but because he is an in-law of the head of the regime. But as soon as everything in his bag is taken over by U.S. and perhaps Israeli intelligence, the general will become an ordinary human being in fear of murder or liquidation like many like him in Arab and Western exiles.

If Gen. Kamil, the second in command and the man who knew all the secrets including the movements of his leader, could not succeed in changing the regime while in that position, how is he going to succeed while living in the Raghdan Palace in Amman, al-Nasiriyah Palace in Riyadh, or even on Capitol Hill in Washington?

Gen. Kamil is a big fish caught in the net of U.S. intelligence for reasons that have nothing to do with concern for the Iraqi people or attempts to ease their suffering, because his defection will only prolong the blockade and increase the list of children who will die of hunger or disease because of him. In all his statements he has said nothing, not a single word, about democracy and human rights. He expressed complete willingness to cooperate with Iraq's enemies and to sell his country's secrets to them, breaking every oath he took about military honor and principles.

His statements, in which he said that the government had not disclosed all the facts about its military program to the United Nations, will certainly put the UN inspection operations back to square one and result in the reopening of all the files which had almost been closed after five years of efforts, suffering, and humiliation.

The magnitude of the damage he has caused his country and the grandfather of his children are incalculable, and its possible consequences could touch the very core of Iraqi sovereignty and future. Furthermore, the role played by Jordan in facilitating the asylum and contact with the Americans may be yet another turning point in the geography and politics of the region. The Jordanian move represented a 180-degree shift and it could prove decisive in any Iraqi change if it developed further to the point of embracing the armed and political opposition to Saddam Husayn's reign, but that is a two-edged weapon and any miscalculation would have catastrophic effects because that is a role much bigger than Jordan and its complex internal fabric.

There can be no doubt that Gen. Kamil is now on a special "honeymoon" with his Jordanian, and later American, hosts but it may be a short-lived honeymoon by political standards and that will depend on its duration in the media which, at best, will be no more than one year if we consider the duration of that of his predecessor, that other general, Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former chief of Iraqi military intelligence. Media age is in the hands of the United States at any rate.

The experiences of all sons, in-laws, and former officials are not rosy and are there for Gen. Kamil, his brother, and their two wives to see. The son of Shah Reza Pahlavi now wanders between London, Washington, and Paris in search of his father's throne. The in-laws of the late leader Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir are businessmen. The daughter of Castro who took refuge in the United States is hardly remembered by anyone. Dr. Bani-Sadr, the elected president of Iran after Imam Khomeyni's revolution, writes to kill time and boredom and resist amnesia.

The Iraqi regime has certainly received a strong blow which caused cracks in it making it necessary for it to put its house in order again and shake all the dirt off its carpet. Continuation of the current situation would lead to more defections and perhaps to collapse in the country turning it into another Afghanistan or another, larger, Kurdistan.

Iraq today faces a difficult multifaceted dilemma which can only be tackled with practical internal measures, the first of which should be a move to hit the centers of powers which are playing havoc with the country and its resources and undermining its symbols and Arab and international standing with their internal conflicts and lowly material ambitions. The second should be reliance on the qualifications and expertise of the people. We do not believe that those who developed a special nuclear program are less efficient than Husayn Kamil or anyone else.

Husayn Kamil's defection is not the first in history and it will not be the last, but to prevent its repetition many old criteria for selecting men and trustees should be reconsidered, urgent practical steps should be taken to promote national reconciliation, and an enlarged national coalition government should be formed of qualified people to meet the challenges. The Iraqi people who stood fast all these years in the face of the blockade can stand fast for decades to come once they are sure that their government does not include people like Husayn Kamil who would abandon them and their national ambitions and who would change the color of their skin and their principles at the first crossroads.

Warplanes Conduct Exercise To Meet U.S. 'Threat'

NC1608102295 Paris AFP in English
1007 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 16 (AFP)—The defense minister announced Wednesday [16 August] that Iraqi warplanes had conducted exercises to meet a possible threat from the United States following the defection of a top Iraqi official.

General Sultan Hashim Ahmad said he had sent a telegram to President Saddam Husayn to tell him "the Air Force and anti-aircraft units had successfully conducted mobilization exercises on August 14 and 15 to meet possible threats."

Air Defense Command Holds 'Tactical Exercise'

JN1508192695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from Staff General Sultan Hashim Ahmad, minister of defense, at the conclusion of a successful tactical exercise carried out by the Air Defense Command, in coordination with the Air Force Command.

The following is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

God made it but a message of hope for you, and an assurance to your hearts in any case. There is no help except from God, the exalted, the wise. [Koranic verse]

Mr. President, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Staff Marshal Saddam Husayn, may God protect and preserve you, from fighter Staff Gen. Sultan Hashim Ahmad, minister of defense:

In implementation of your excellency's directives to carry out a tactical exercise of the Air Defense Command to face the possible threats, the Air Defense Command, in coordination with the Air Force Command, carried out on 14 and 15 August the Leader's Call tactical exercise with units in the defense operations. Air Defense units and air bases took part in the exercise, following careful planning and preparations. The exercise was carried out successfully with a high degree of realism and accuracy as a result of the loyal efforts and the dedication of your zealous soldiers in the Armed Forces.

Mr. Leader President: This exercise would not have achieved the aspired success had it not been for your constant care and continued inspection of the march of our valiant Army and the Air Defense in particular. This splendid performance is only a genuine response to the leader's call and part of the gratitude filling the men's chests and souls for the homeland, people, and beloved leader, Saddam Husayn.

Mr. Leader President: In my own name and on behalf of your faithful Air Defense men, we pledge that we will be your sharp, cutting sword by which you hit the enemies and renegades. We will be at your command to cut off every sinful, aggressive hand that wants to undermine our great Iraq's dignity and greatness.

May you be preserved as an asset, refuge, and hope for all Iraqis, Arabs, and honorable ones in the world.

May God grant us support, success, and guidance.

God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Fighter Gen. Sultan Hashim Ahmad, the defense minister, 15 August 1995

New Army Chief of Staff Interviewed on Mobilization

JN1408171095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1509 GMT 14 Aug 95

[Interview with Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Wahid Shannan Al Ribat, Army chief of staff, by unidentified Army lieutenant colonel; date not given; from the "Evening Newspaper" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Lieutenant Colonel] God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. We are pleased to meet fighter Staff Lt. Gen. 'Abd-al-Wahid Shannan Al Ribat, chief of staff of the Army, who will explain to us the purpose of the call-up of reserve officers and other ranks and answer some questions on this subject, particularly since the first group will be called up on 23 August. We welcome the chief of staff of the Army.

[Al Ribat] Thanks. In fact, we are going to call up those who were born in 1952 for training from 23 August to 22 September, and those who were born in 1961 for training from 1 to 30 October, those who were born in 1962 for training from 4 November to 3 December, and those who were born in 1963 for training from 11 December 1995 to 10 January 1996. Regarding the officers, we will call up courses 26, 27, 30, and 34. Reserve officers and other ranks are to be called up so they can keep in touch with their units and in order to retrain them. The call-up also has a statistical purpose.

[Lieutenant Colonel] Army chief of staff, is there any plan to allow reservists to serve in their governorates?

[Al Ribat] Yes, we have a plan. In fact, we took into account the economic circumstances of our dear country, as well as the difficulty in providing means of transportation. Therefore, the reservists will be sent to training centers that are close to their places of residence. Except for the officers, two centers were set up in the middle and northern parts of the country for that purpose.

[Lieutenant Colonel] Army chief of staff, thank you. Statements by the Mobilization and Statistics Directorate on calling up reserve officers and other ranks indicate that the duration of the service is 30 days. Is there any change in that duration, and will the reservists be discharged as soon as they complete that term of service?

[Al Ribat] Yes. We will not extend the duration. As I have said, it has statistical purposes and is also aimed at keeping reservists in touch with their units. There is no change in the 30- day duration. As before, we will call up reservists in this month. This will affect reservists' living. The training centers are not fit for a longer period. One week will be devoted to receiving the reservists and distributing military hardware. After training them in their fields of specialty and on the use of needed weapons, the military hardware will be restored and the reservists will be discharged at the end of that period.

[Lieutenant Colonel] Army chief of staff, what do you say to the reserve officers and other ranks who will be called up?

[Al Ribat] I appeal to the heroic fighters, who were well known by battlefields during the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah and the immortal Mother of Battles, to make this experiment successful, to serve their dear army and their great Iraq, and to score final victory under the leadership of the nation's knight and the symbol of its loftiness and strength, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. I am confident that our fighters will report on time so that the process can be carried out as scheduled.

[Lieutenant Colonel] Thank you Army chief of staff for this conversation and for answering questions posed by fighters on the call-up of the reservists. We wish our brave Army every progress under the leadership of the builder of great Iraq, leader mujahid Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. Thank you dear viewers, and God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Saddam Chairs RCC, Ba'th Party Command Joint Meeting

JN1308163095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1600 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting for the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The meeting was attended by the chief of the Presidential Office, the foreign minister, and the culture and information minister.

Arab League Delegate Assails U.S., Stresses Unity

JN1408144595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1145 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (INA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has accused the United States of fabricating incidents, pretexts, and lies to maintain the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq and to further harm its people.

In a statement published by the Egyptian newspaper AL-SIYASI here today, Najm said: We were not surprised by this position because we know well that the United States is opposing the will of the international community, as well as most member states of the Security Council that are urging an end to the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq. At the same time, it is opposing 14 member states of the Security Council to try to prevent condemnation of the Zionist entity that is violating international law every day.

Najm stressed that nobody can deny that Iraq has seriously complied with the resolutions of the UN Security Council and that Iraq is eager to cooperate with the UN Special Commission, which is in charge of scrapping weapons of mass destruction and closing the biological file, in order to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 calling for lifting the economic blockade without any delay.

He asserted that Iraq and its leadership will cooperate with every honest Arab effort to achieve Arab solidarity because they believe in the need for Arab relations, which take into account the higher Arab interests and which can preserve comprehensive pan-Arab security. He pointed out that lifting the blockade is the best way to bring about security and stability in the region and establish balanced relations.

Regarding the Kuwaiti regime's allegations about missing Kuwaitis, the Iraqi diplomat asserted that before each Security Council review of the blockade, this regime fabricate allegations and lies to prevent lifting the unjust blockade and to harm Iraq and its people.

He added that the Kuwaiti regime knows well that Iraq is searching for the missing in accordance with the international law and the rules and practices of the International Committee of the Red Cross and that it is also cooperating with the said committee in its capacity as a neutral mediator to settle the problem. Any allegations, he said, conflicting with these facts cannot be accepted or believed.

Paper Criticizes U.S. 'Interference' in North

JN1308132695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0635 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has criticized the direct U.S. interference in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region as well as the U.S. attempts to reconcile the Barzani group with the Talabani group at the expense of our Kurdish people who are moaning loudly due to these groups' despotism and armed conflict in pursuit of their personal interests.

In an article today, the paper says: The miserable situation in northern Iraq refutes all the Western allegations and the U.S.- Zionist media nonsense on protecting the Kurds, human rights, and the safe havens. This situation also tangibly confirms that all these allegations were no more than throwing dust in the eyes.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Those who know the true situation in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region under the armed cliques and in view of the flagrant U.S. interference assert that the Kurdish people have begun to realize the real malicious U.S. role. These people also began to ridicule the false U.S. allegations and the fake U.S. care for them.

The paper asserts that since the United States and its Western allies interfered in the region's affairs, this region has not enjoyed any stability or security. On the contrary, the situation has deteriorated to the extent that one can no longer feel secure about himself, his kinsfolk, and his future.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH says: The veil, which the United States used to wear and by which it tried to embellish its ugly face in order to peddle false slogans in northern Iraq, has fallen. Moreover, it was ascertained that the U.S. Administration has failed to use the Kurds as a political bargaining chip against Iraq for the past five years.

The paper asserts that returning the legitimate national authority to the Autonomous Region is the only solution which will end the erroneous situation and regain the Kurdistan Autonomous Region's security, stability, and decent life.

Paper Says U.S. Determined To Continue 'Siege'

JN1608080795 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0608 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has held the U.S. Administration responsible for fabricating pretexts and lies to continue the siege imposed on the Iraqi people.

In an article published today, AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said the U.S. Administration does not spare any opportunity and does not delay any efforts to find a new pretext to prevent the lifting of the siege on Iraq and ending the suffering of its steadfast people.

It added that the wise Iraqi leadership, out of eagerness to ease the suffering of the Iraqi citizens as much as possible, decided to cooperate with the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency as much as possible and in a manner that does not undermine Iraq's sovereignty and its national unity, aborts the possible pretexts, and opens the road for Iraqi citizens to restore their legitimate and natural rights to have food, medicine, security, education, and welfare — rights over which the United States tries to haggle.

AL-THAWRAH stressed: Washington's fabrication of any story or pretext to perpetuate the siege on Iraq corresponds with the low ethical level of the U.S. Administration. The U.S. Administration's efforts to fabricate stories and pretexts reveal the extent of hatred and prejudice toward Iraq, and its desire to inject its poisons in the Iraqi body, for which God, Iraqi historic militant experiences, and the wisdom of struggler leader Saddam Husayn gave sufficient immunity to resist these poisons and their dangers.

The newspaper stressed that, thanks to historical and daily experiences, the Iraqi citizen has become aware of the hatred of its enemy and its arrogance in showing this hatred caused by the adherence of the Iraqi people to their deep roots, values, and their civilization project which was started by leader Saddam Husayn.

AL-THAWRAH concluded by saying: The Iraqi people are the ones who brought their leadership and its militant symbol from their struggling ranks, and they are sure that their leadership is more concerned with their interests, future, and status than all those who shed crocodile tears on the people, conspire against the people, and seek with all their strength and malice to keep them besieged and suffering.

SAIRI'S al-Hakim on Unifying Opposition

JN1508035795 London AL-WASAT in Arabic
7-13 Aug 95 pp 24, 25

[Interview with SAIRI Chairman Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Humaydi] What is the purpose of your current visit to Damascus after a delay of two years?

[Al-Hakim] It is a private visit, according to diplomatic terminology. It is also a courtesy visit during which I met with Iraqi brothers, Syrian officials, and Muslim brothers who are visiting Syria these days.

As to the reason for the delay, it was not a delay actually. It was just that the nature of my activity did not permit me to come to Syria. I am very active inside Iran due to the presence of about 700,000 Iraqis who are scattered in different parts of Iran, and I have to look into their affairs.

[Humaydi] Do the aims of your visit include making arrangements to transfer SAIRI's [Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq] headquarters to Damascus?

[Al-Hakim] There is nothing in this respect, but establishing strong centers for us abroad is part of the plan which began seven years ago. We now have bureaus outside the Islamic Republic carrying out their field political and propaganda work in a better manner than before. But we also believe that our presence in Iran is essential for several considerations — mainly the presence of a wide Iraqi base inside Iranian territory.

[Humaydi] Do you mean a shiite base in Iran?

[Al-Hakim] There is a large number of Iraqi citizens, both sunnis and shiites and also Arabs and Kurds, because the border between Iraq and Iran is long, almost 1,400 km, and is adjacent to regions of different sects and ethnic origins. There are people from all these Iraqi regions inside the Islamic Republic.

[Humaydi] What is the ratio of these people in the Supreme Assembly?

[Al-Hakim] The political structure is not based on a ratio, but on the personality of the members and their role in the movement as well as their competence in performing their tasks.

[Humaydi] Do you not fear the recent normalization prospects between Baghdad and Tehran?

[Al-Hakim] These relations have not affected our activity and relations with Tehran, and so far they have not affected the nature of our work.

[Humaydi] Are you pleased with the nature of work within the Iraqi opposition?

[Al-Hakim] We aspire for a larger and more active movement reflecting the Iraqi people's situation, which is very delicate. The Iraqi people aspire for an active movement against the regime; we also aspire for that. So, we are not pleased. I cannot easily say that I am pleased. There are many problems within the opposition which we are trying to overcome and resolve. On the whole, the opposition is active and strong and it has inflicted several defeats on the regime.

[Humaydi] Could regional or ethnic affiliation be considered a basic problem facing the unification of the opposition?

[Al-Hakim] I do not believe that is correct. The basic problem lies with our Kurdish brothers. The situation of the Kurds is a real problem. Any problem within any of the opposition factions constitutes a burden on the other forces — this exists.

There is another major problem. The opposition parties have not reached a common stand on the course of action to create the change in Iraq. The opposition follows different courses, but when we agree on one course we will be more effective.

[Humaydi] What are these courses?

[Al-Hakim] Some opposition parties favor a military coup. So, they are trying through contacts with the Iraqi Army to take armed action to topple the regime. Others favor continuous, strong pressure on the regime to blow up the situation inside Iraq. Yet, others favor creating active cells and centers which can use force against the force which the regime uses against the people and the opposition.

[Humaydi] How far have you reached in your plan to unify the opposition?

[Al-Hakim] I consider this to be an important and basic plan. We are still working on it, and it is agreed upon by the opposition parties. But the problem lies in the course of action.

[Humaydi] What are the bases of this plan?

[Al-Hakim] It is essentially based on unifying the course of action. I proposed this plan some six months ago and it is based on the method of field action against the regime, because political action alone is not enough to create the change.

[Humaydi] What kind of support do you expect from Syria in this field?

[Al-Hakim] Syria has always backed Muslim issues in general, and the cause of the Iraqi people in particular, with a firm, steadfast stand. Therefore, its stand in backing the opposition and understanding the nature of the ruling regime in Baghdad is important to us, and we hope that this stand will continue.

During my talks with Syrian officials, especially Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, I felt that they are serious about cooperating with the opposition and unifying its efforts in the present phase. Syria believes in the importance of creating a change in Iraq. It wants the opposition to be serious, effective, and unified.

[Humaydi] Have you proposed to Syrian officials the holding of a conference for the Iraqi opposition in Damascus instead of the "Salah al-Din Conference," which was shelved.

[Al-Hakim] We have not spoken on this subject.

[Humaydi] What is your position on the Salah al-Din Conference?

[Al-Hakim] I am absolutely not concerned with it.

[Humaydi] Why have you turned down the invitation to its meetings?

[Al-Hakim] I was determined to be with all the Iraqi people and all the opposition parties to render better service and performance. Therefore, I did not take part.

[Humaydi] Why did you not represent all the opposition parties?

[Al-Hakim] You can ask those responsible for the conference. I, personally, was not present. I refused to attend and take part, but the Supreme Assembly was represented.

[Humaydi] What are you doing to stop the fighting between the Kurds?

[Al-Hakim] This fighting is regrettable, because it is harmful to the Kurds and the Iraqi people. Therefore, I issued appeals and exerted efforts to stop it. Indeed, we have succeeded several times in stopping it. We will continue our activity toward achieving this aim. We believe that the best way to end the fighting is to reach a general Iraqi plan which will include the brother Kurds. Then the question of stopping the war between them would be just a question of time.

[Humaydi] Do you believe that there is an international desire to overthrow President Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Hakim] States do not act according to principles and values. Were it so, there would have a been a single stand against Saddam Husayn. Because he is outside the principles of humanity and he cannot coexist with the international community or with his people. But since states act only according to interests, and they have been know to take a single position on certain basic issues, I cannot say if they have the same determination to overthrow Saddam. However, I would like to emphasize at the same time that the process of getting rid of Saddam is the responsibility of the Iraqi people alone. Internationalizing the overthrow will not be in the interest of the Iraqi people or the region. It is also not realistic or practical.

'Secret' Peres-'Arafat Agreement Reported

TA1608095995 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 16 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Yehoshu'a Mor Yosef]

[FBIS Translated Text] Does the Taba agreement signed by Peres and 'Arafat have secret addenda? The YISRA'EL SHELANU [our Israel] newspaper printed in New York reported yesterday that Peres and 'Arafat had agreed that 'Arafat would be allowed to establish a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital in the course of 1997.

According to the newspaper, Peres is ready to create territorial contiguity between Gaza and Judaea and Samaria. Furthermore, the return of hundreds of thousands of Arab refugees was guaranteed.

The report stated that the agreement, a mere five copies of which were made, did not determine the borders of Jerusalem within the context of its becoming the Palestinian state's capital. Israel agreed to the return of the 1948 refugees after the next Knesset elections. The Palestinians obtained approval for a 36,000-strong police force.

The newspaper further reported that the United States would finance the compensation that would be paid to settlers who would leave their homes after the transfer of control in Judaea and Samaria.

Reacting to the report, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said that he did not know of a secret document and that if such a document did exist, it must have been kept secret. 'Arafat's aide Ahmad al-Tibi said yesterday that a Palestinian state would be established even before the interim stage was over. The MBC television station also reported secret agreements achieved in Taba.

Netanyahu, Peres Knesset Session Remarks Reported

TA1608103895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Batsheva Tsur]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government must bring the Taba document to a vote in the Knesset, Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu declared yesterday, as the plenum met in extraordinary session to discuss four urgent motions on the agreement and its aftermath.

"The longer it takes, the wider the chasm will be in the nation," Netanyahu said, presenting the first motion. "You must include secret agreements," he added.

He said there were two basic conditions which had to be checked before such an agreement was signed: the sincerity of the Arabs' intentions, and security arrangements in case these intentions prove not to be sincere.

"Since the Oslo Accords, (PLO Chairman Yasir) 'Arafat has four times stated that he is intent on carrying out a jihad against Israel," Netanyahu said. "You are going to allow them to set up an army on the outskirts of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv... to set up a terrorist state and to divide Jerusalem. The prime minister must bring this decision before the nation. What are you afraid of?" he asked.

Netanyahu's speech was persistently interrupted by loud interjections from coalition MKs [Knesset members], countered by further exchanges from opposition MKs, which degenerated into a general fracas that plenum chairman Salih Tarif was unable to control.

At one stage, Tzomet MK Moshe Peled was ordered to leave the chamber, and later, during Peres' response to Netanyahu, Moledet MK Yosef Ba-Gad was removed from the plenum. "The autonomy scheme was originally raised by the Likud," Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres declared as the noisy heckling continued. "We are acting according to the Camp David Accords which are your patent... MK Ari'el Sharon warned you at the time the Likud had established a Palestinian state."

Peres said that the government had succeeded in obtaining better conditions than those postulated in the accords agreed to by Likud, since the civil administration, for example, would not have to be disbanded as stipulated at Camp David.

The Palestinian Police, he said, would not be a match for Israel's combined police and army forces, and the past few months had proven that part of the Palestinian people had renounced terror.

"For the sake of Israel's security, we have to lead the region into an era of new relations," Peres said. "We have the strength for that."

The Knesset then voted to transfer the motion to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. It was decided that the three other motions — from Meretz, decrying the growing anarchy in the country; from Labor protesting the violations of the law by demonstrators; and from Tzomet, concerning the widening chasm with the settlers — would also be debated at a later date.

Paper: Majority of Public Opposes Taba Agreement

TA1408104095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Making It Irreversible"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is entirely possible that Interior Minister Ehud Baraq and Religious Affairs Minister Shim'on Shetrit abstained yesterday from voting for the Taba agreement because they have political ambitions. Both would like to run for prime minister whenever Yitzhaq Rabin steps down, and they obviously believe that it would be advantageous to place themselves to the right of the government's position.

But even if this cynical — and probably grossly unfair — assessment of their motives is justified, their abstention is illuminating. For they both know that most of the public, like President 'Ezer Weizman, is opposed to the headlong rush into any agreement which entails further IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawals. The nation's mood is dramatically different from what it was when the Camp David Accords, in which Weizman played a major role, were brought before the Knesset. Then, both the electorate and its representatives overwhelmingly supported the agreement.

To justify his current moves, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, always in search of precedents, likes to cite the invasion of Lebanon as a case in which the government sought no public approval for a major step. But a vote of no-confidence against the invasion, proposed in the Knesset on June 8, 1982 by the Communist Party, was defeated by a vote of 93 to 3. Had a referendum on the invasion been held then, the electorate would have approved it overwhelmingly.

Until now no government has ever taken fateful decisions about the nation's future without the clear support of a large majority. In its disregard of public sentiment, this government is unique.

It is not even clear that the government has its usual tiny majority in the Knesset for the decision on Taba. With at least two Labor backbenchers — Avigdor Qahalani and Imanu'el Zismann — announcing they would not support the agreement, and with Energy Minister Gonen Segev of the YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] faction voting against it in yesterday's cabinet meeting, the chances of achieving a Knesset majority for the 'Arafat-Peres document are slim. In fact, the government will most likely not bring the decision before the Knesset for a vote.

Yet there is no denying that the agreement is a natural outcome of the Oslo document, as Environment Minister Yosi Sarid was quick to point out yesterday. What Sarid does not mention is that there has been a marked drop in public support for the process, for an obvious reason: The two years since the celebrated signing of the Declaration of Principles on the White House lawn have made the promise of peace seem hopelessly hollow. The government may tout Gaza as an exemplary neighbor, but the prospect of having similar neighbors on the outskirts of the country's main population centers obviously fails to warm the cockles of Israeli hearts.

Not surprisingly, the government has stopped citing military opinion to support its policies: The army seems to share the general skepticism about the PA's ability and willingness to keep terrorists from using the evacuated towns and villages as launching pads for attacks on Israelis. Even officers who are not concerned about the fate of the Judaea and Samaria residents worry about the impact of PLO-run Qalqilyah and Tulkarm on the Green Line communities five minutes away.

Nor does the IDF welcome the vague definition of its authority in the rural areas, where the Palestinian Police is supposed to be in charge of security but the army has "overriding security responsibility." Such vagueness is an invitation to friction and conflict.

But what creates the greatest unease about the Taba agreement is not its details, ambiguous as they are, but its direction. Its proponents keep assuring the public that control of most of Judaea and Samaria will remain in Israeli hands for a long time. They point out that it is a typical Peres document, aimed at creating momentum rather than specific provisions, and that Israel can interpret it any way it wants. Nor have some of the main issues — the control of water, the withdrawal from Hebron, and the exact areas to be evacuated — been resolved. Above all, the government repeatedly says withdrawal depends wholly on security. If the state of security deteriorates, withdrawal will stop.

But the public knows by now that this promise — "if it doesn't work we'll stop the process" — is no more than a lulling slogan. Far more likely to be fulfilled is Peres's prediction that the Taba agreement will make the "process" irreversible. Once the PA assumes authority in the major Arab population centers, the road to Palestinian sovereignty is unstoppable. Nor is there any doubt that the Palestinian state, which the world will recognize as soon as it is proclaimed, will occupy the vast majority, if not all, the territories won in 1967, and that the Jewish residents of these areas will ultimately have to leave.

Most of the government ministers seem to have reconciled themselves to this prospect. Most of the public has not.

Editorial Urges Rabin To Submit Taba Accords to Knesset

TA1508122095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Aug 95 p B1

[Editorial: "The Knesset and the Taba Accords"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset speaker has asked the prime minister to submit the Taba accords for the Knesset's approval; Knesset Member [MK] Shevah Weiss did not base this demand on legal reasons but rather on what he termed the tradition of our political life accepted by all Knesset members. The prime minister rejected his appeal, however, and promised to ask for the Knesset's approval once the agreement is completed.

The prime minister is standing on solid ground from the legal point of view. The document signed in Taba by the foreign minister and the PLO chairman is not the "interim agreement" specified in the Declaration of Principles. The Taba document is merely a partial political accord, signed by the two sides in order to pave the way for the final objective.

The Taba accords do not constitute an international treaty as does the peace treaty signed with Egypt in 1979 and the one signed with Jordan last year. It is true that Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir opined that the Knesset should be a partner to "processes that lead to the signing of political treaties." It must not settle for being presented by the government with a "finished product." The government must involve the Knesset, "as is customary with an agreement that is formulated in principle but has not yet gone into effect."

The opposition, which is opposed to the Taba accords just as it opposed the Oslo agreement in its entirety, can use the opinion of the attorney general to demand that the government seek parliamentary approval for its decision. The prime minister, however, is not obligated to act on the basis of an opinion that has no legal status at this point. To date, the norm has been for the government to conduct the country's foreign policy and for the legislature not to interfere in the details of its moves. If the Knesset is not satisfied with the results reached by the executive branch, it is entitled to cast its vote of no confidence, thereby annulling the validity of the international agreement signed by the government.

If the government signs an "interim agreement," as it has undertaken to do in the Oslo agreement, it should naturally seek the Knesset's approval; but a partial agreement of the kind signed by Shim'on Peres does not require such approval. Incidentally, the opposition factions are not waging a holy war to expand the Knesset's authority; what they want is to hamper the negotiations being conducted by the government because they oppose the agreement meant to further the implementation of the hated Oslo agreement. Yitzhaq Rabin is not obligated to further the opposition's maneuvers.

Despite all of the above, it is doubtful whether the prime minister is acting wisely by rejecting the appeal of the Knesset speaker. There is a kernel of truth in the claim of Yo'el Singer, the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, who said that the Taba accords "entail the potential for determining borders." Even if this opinion is more of a political assessment regarding the expected form of the agreement than a legal definition of the final arrangement, Rabin and Peres will find it hard to downplay its weight.

The prime minister cannot oppose a referendum by claiming that such a referendum could impinge on the Knesset's authority while, at the same time, denying parliament the right to express its opinion on the Taba accords. Obviously, he will have to convince MK's Qahalani and Zismann to accept party discipline and make sure that the ministers who voted against the Taba accords or those who abstained will vote in favor of the accords in the Knesset. The fact that Rabin hates to engage in such canvassing such not be the factor that determines his basic position.

The Taba accords are too far-reaching for the Knesset to be denied the right to have its say on them. If the government manages to obtain majority support — a thing that is somewhat difficult but not impossible — it will emerge all the stronger for the continuation of the negotiations.

Ruling Issued on IDF, Police, Palestinian Roles

TA1608111895 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Barukh Me'iri]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will be prohibited from entering the scene of criminal events in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza before the arrival of police troops. This ruling was issued by the attorney general as part of the law and order enforcement regulations pertaining to Israelis in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

The full text of the regulations was distributed among members of the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee this week. The attorney general ruled that army troops deployed in a territories location in which a criminal act by Israelis was committed will keep all persons away from the scene until the police arrive.

Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir further ruled that Israel Police will be in charge of enforcing law and order inside the Israeli settlements, while the IDF will be responsible for handling events around the settlement. Israel Police will be responsible for handling law and order enforcement, and the IDF will assist it and take care of the surrounding area.

The ruling states that the overall responsibility for handling the event from the beginning to the end lies with the police, "and the various forces will therefore be utilized under its guidance." The attorney general stated that in the event of disagreements between the army and the police, "the police commander will have the last word in professional matters pertaining to law enforcement."

Ben-Ya'ir ruled that if demonstrators display active resistance to evacuation or stage a violent demonstration, the security forces may use reasonable force. The evacuation of women will be done by female police officers or female soldiers.

The attorney general's instructions state that both policemen and soldiers will have authority to detain suspects, and that a suspect's refusal to heed orders will be sufficient cause for detention. Policemen and soldiers will have authority to search both the belongings and the bodies of suspected offenders. They will be further allowed to seize anything they find in a suspect's possession. Ben-Ya'ir recommended placing video cameras to record the events from the outset.

The attorney general assigned a special chapter to areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority. He stated: "Since the IDF is not permanently deployed in these areas, the immediate authority with regard to disturbances by Israelis in these areas lies with the Palestinian Police."

If the Palestinians fail to summon the Israeli security forces, and there is concern for the lives of the Israelis involved in the disturbances, "the command chief may send troops to the scene to deal with the disturbance and to move the Israelis to Israeli-controlled territory."

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 16 August publishes on page A3 a report by Gid'on Alon which adds: "Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir warned yesterday that if the routine measures employed by the legal establishment against law-violating settlers prove insufficient, there will be no choice but to resort to emergency measures and emergency regulations and to trying the offenders in military tribunals. Ben-Ya'ir was referring to activities such as road blocking, speeches inciting people to use weapons, and violence against the IDF and the police."]

Rabin Reveals 'Laissez-Faire Policy' for Protests

TA1608111095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Batsheva Tsur]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday revealed what is apparently going to be the government's new laissez faire policy with regard to evacuating right-wing demonstrators from hilltops in the territories.

Asked in the Labor caucus by MK [Knesset member] Avigdor Qahalani whether it was now government policy "not to remove settlements, but to allow the settlers to dry up," Rabin replied: "If someone goes up on a hill, he'll be allowed to dry up a little."

Rabin also said that reports that the Taba agreement will take Israel back to its 1967 borders are "a figment of the imagination."

In fact, he said, the conditions obtained by Israel under the agreement are an improvement over those of the Camp David Accords.

"Not even one IDF [Israel Defense Forces] camp will be evacuated, except for those in the towns populated by Palestinians," and other IDF bases would be added in the territories to bolster security for the settlers, Rabin said. "The overriding responsibility for foiling terrorist attacks and ensuring the safety of the civilian population will remain in the hands of the IDF."

Israel will also maintain responsibility for external security, he said.

Rabin said he had confidence in the Palestinian Police, which has proven itself in the Jericho area over the past 16 months. "It is even possible to pray at the synagogue there for the first time now," he said.

Rabin's explanations met with vigorous opposition on the part of Qahalani and 'Imanu'el Zissmann who have threatened to vote against the accord when it is completed and brought before the Knesset. Rabin met with the two separately after the caucus meeting.

Booklet Details Plan To Bring Down Government

TA1608101195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thousands of anti-government protesters are to converge on Jerusalem next week in an effort "to bring about the fall of the government," according to a plan by Zo Artzenu.

The grass roots settlement group sent a booklet yesterday to its major activists detailing the plan, a copy of which was obtained by THE JERUSALEM POST.

Similar tactics used in Zo Artzenu's blocking of roads last week are planned for the Jerusalem protest, which is to center on the Prime Minister's Office.

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza is also considering carrying out a "siege of the Prime Minister's Office" in the near future, with 10,000 to 15,000 protesters.

The Council of Jewish Communities and Zo Artzenu are at odds over the timing and planning of the Jerusalem protest, and it was unclear as of yesterday if the two groups would coordinate their actions.

The Zo Artzenu protest is scheduled for next Thursday [24 August], beginning in the morning with symbolic marches towards Jerusalem from communities throughout the country.

The protesters are likely to block major roads in their communities during the morning march of three to four kilometers, after which they will get on buses and head for Jerusalem.

A few kilometers outside the capital the protesters are again to begin marching, and blocking roads, with groups entering the city from all directions and heading towards the Prime Minister's Office.

Zo Artzenu head Moshe Feiglan told the POST that the demonstration is timed to "continue the wave of protests" begun by last week's road blocks.

Nisan Shlomiansky, demonstration organizer for the Council of Jewish Communities, said he hoped to work together with Zo Artzenu, but only if he could convince Feiglan to delay the protest several weeks.

"A demonstration of this size has to be well organized," Shlomiansky said, adding he hoped to carry out the "siege" on the date of the signing of the interim agreement with the Palestinians, expected early next month.

"We need to work together," Shlomiansky said.

"The right has shot itself in the foot too many times by allowing its strength to be divided."

The Council of Jewish Communities has tried in the past to squash Zo Artzenu's protest plans and keep sole control of settlers' protest action. In several cases it has been dragged into protests organized by the grass-roots group that it originally opposed.

Zo Artzenu activists are scheduled to meet tomorrow night at the Beit Orot Yeshiva on the Mount of Olives to discuss the upcoming protest. Yeshiva head Rabbi Beni Elon is among the leaders of Zo Artzenu.

Hebron Settlers Respond to IDF Withdrawal Plan

TA1408042995 (Internet) Judean Voice in English 13 Aug 95

["Response by the Jewish Community of Hebron concerning redeployment of the Israel Defense Forces in Hebron" issued by the "Jewish Community of Hebron" in Qiryat Arba' on 13 August]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jewish Community of Hebron rejects any restriction of freedom of movement within Hebron, or within any part of Eretz Yisra'el. The City of Hebron, containing a Jewish population for thousands of years until the expulsion of the survivors of the slaughter in 1929, was the first Jewish city in the land of Israel, some 3000 years before the advent of Islam.

The Jewish Community of Hebron totally rejects any ghettoization of the Jews living in Hebron today. To the contrary, we demand the right to continue to resettle and renew Hebron. Hundreds of Jewish homes and hundreds of acres of Jewish property, the deeds to which are still in our possession, remain occupied by Arabs who plundered, murdered and stole our property in August of 1929. We demand that this property be returned to its rightful owners immediately. This includes land currently occupied by the Arab market, which was built on property purchased in 1540 by Jews then living in Hebron, and developed as part of the ancient Jewish Quarter, in existence until 1929. It also includes land occupied by Arabs on Admot Ishi (Tel Hebron), currently known as Tall al-Rumaythah. This land was purchased in the late 1800's by Jews in Hebron and is presently occupied by Arabs who have no lawful deeds to it.

The Jewish Community of Hebron rejects any suggestion that Jews may not settle wherever they should so desire within Eretz Yisra'el. The most basic right of an individual, and also that of a nation, is the right to settle its homeland, with no discrimination because of race or religion. The Jewish people in the Land of Israel are being discriminated against because they are Jews, desiring to live on Jewish land, in the Jewish State of Israel. This defies all logic, is against all moral and ethical human values, and is blatantly adverse to the most basic of all human rights, that of self- preservation.

The Jewish Community of Hebron decries any attempt by the present Israeli government to relinquish Jewish sovereignty within all the Land of Israel, and more specifically, within the city of Hebron. Any attempt to allow foreign soldiers, armed and in uniform, within Hebron, (or within any part of the Land of Israel,) is a barbaric act of treason. It is irrelevant whether these soldiers are called "police", "security agents" or whatever. Non-Jewish, non-Israeli armed forces, attempting to patrol, to rule or to enforce foreign laws within Hebron, or within any part of Israel, will be viewed as an committing an Act of War against the Jewish People of Israel, and will be reacted to accordingly.

The Jewish Community of Hebron demands that the Israeli government strengthen the city of Hebron by allowing immediate mass Jewish building and settlement throughout the city in order to make clear to all the nations of the world that Hebron is an integral part of the Land of Israel and the Jewish State.

There must be no question in the minds of all Jews and all Goyim throughout Israel and throughout the world that the Jewish People will never separate itself from its roots, the city of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, the city of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca and Lea. The physical and spiritual fortification of Hebron is the only response to false claims by foreign peoples, mortal enemies of the Jewish People throughout the ages. We hereby proclaim that the Jewish People have returned to the Land of Israel after 2,000 years of exile, an exile to which we will not return, in any way, shape or form. Self-exile from the roots of the Jewish nation will only lead to the downfall of our eternal capital, Jerusalem. This must never be allowed to happen.

The Jewish Community of Hebron demands the Arab Mayor of Hebron, Mustafa al-Natshah, who is demanding the removal of all Jewish citizens from Hebron, be immediately imprisoned for treason against the State of Israel, and for incitement to murder.

Hebron - Past, Present and Forever

Green Line Inhabitants Establish New Encampment

TA1608110395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A new encampment, "Magen Dan," was built last night in Samaria by residents from within the Green Line, a settler spokesman said last night. Dozens of residents from the Dan region converged on a hilltop within the boundaries of Elqana, said spokesman Aharon Domb. Police and soldiers tried to close off the area, but the residents managed to get around the roadblock, Domb said. Late last night they were building a home at the site, on a foundation they had put up in advance of the operation.

Soldier Sentenced for Refusing To Evict Settlers

TA1608083595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A tank commander in the Armored Corps who refused to evict settlers has been sentenced to 28 days in a military lockup. Israel Radio's military correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the sergeant's unit was on an operational mission south of Hebron when it received orders to aid in evacuating settlers near Susya. The soldier refused to participate for ideological reasons and was tried by the battalion commander.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has confirmed the report, adding that the IDF is an army of the people and implements decisions of the political echelon.

Closure on Gaza Strip Extended Until 17 Aug

TA1508174695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The closure on the Gaza Strip has been extended until the afternoon of 17 August. The closure was imposed on 9 August in the wake of reports on plans to carry out a terrorist attack.

Levi Outlines New Party's Political Platform

TA1608104495 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Arye Dayan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Knesset Member [MK] David Levi calls on the government to promptly determine its positions for the negotiations on the final arrangement with the Palestinians. Levi says the government must unequivocally state that "under no circumstances will there be any negotiations over Jerusalem," that no settlements will be evacuated within the framework of the final arrangement, and that "the security of Israel, its citizens, and the settlers in Greater Israel will be ensured only by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]."

"The government is not stating its positions for the final negotiations and is unfortunately leading us into a situation that endangers our security and undermines peace."

MK Levi made these remarks in a policy speech delivered at the founding convention of the Jerusalem branch of his new party. The convention, held at Sha'arey Yerushalayim Hotel, was attended by almost

200 persons, most of them former Likud activists in the city.

The speech, mainly devoted to the political issue, was marked by a hawkish tone in everything relating to the negotiations with the Palestinians, while totally ignoring the negotiations with Syria and the future of the Golan Heights.

Presenting his party's political position, Levi said: "We are neither extreme left nor extreme right. We adhere to a political approach advocating peace, but not at any price — as is currently being done by the government, which is avoiding determining its position for the final arrangement. Israel will find itself faced with a situation wherein it will be able to attain peace only by total capitulation. Today the government is giving freely, and tomorrow, when the negotiations over the final arrangement commence, it will find itself faced with an Arab demand for complete withdrawal to the 1967 line."

"We are unwilling to commit suicide for peace," Levi said. He added, however: "We do not want to rule another nation." [passage omitted]

MK Levi hinted that his party will not rule out the PLO as a partner for autonomy negotiations: "Whoever is saying that once he comes power he will obliterate everything that has taken place should also state how he intends to do so and what he plans to do instead."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 16 August adds: "MK David Levi says he will support the Oslo accords and will even implement them if he wins the elections, if it is guaranteed that no settlements in the territories are dismantled, that the security of the settlers is preserved, and that Jerusalem remains united."

["MK Levi emphasized that agreements must be honored. Levi says his goal is to reach a second round of elections for the premiership between himself and Yitzhaq Rabin after Binyamin Netanyahu loses out in the first round."]

Referring to social issues, Levi said his party will represent the wage earners who are today being abandoned by all of the parties." He said that the left-wing parties represent the affluent sectors and that there is no party representing the working man. [passage omitted]

Rabin Doubts Iraq Military Action Against Jordan

TA1608091195 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Drora Perl, Dan Avidan, Moti Bassok, On Levi, and Uri Sharon]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin voiced doubts yesterday concerning the possibility that Iraq would undertake a military action against Jordan.

The prime minister voiced this view at the end of his meeting with U.S. Lieutenant General John Sheehan, chief of the NATO Atlantic Command. (Sheehan has been mentioned as candidate for chairman of the U.S. Army Joint Chiefs of Staff.) The American general visited Amman prior to his arrival in Israel.

The meeting between the American general and Rabin had been set prior to the desertion to Jordan of Saddam Husayn's two sons-in-law. In the wake of the desertion, the Rabin-Sheehan conversation revolved around the Iraqi issue. No details of the conversation have been revealed. [passage omitted]

Israeli intelligence has been closely monitoring the events in Iraq, with an emphasis on the western region of the country. Senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] elements said they believe the current Iraqi-Jordanian crisis does not apply to Israel. They maintained that Iraq would avoid undertaking a military action against Jordan, although it may carry out a terrorist operation against Husayn Kamil. They believe any Iraqi attempt at a military action would cause the collapse of the regime and the elimination of Saddam Husayn, "a fact of which Saddam is aware." [passage omitted]

Paper Claims Saddam, Wife Pay Visit to Amman

JN1608130595 Amman SAWT AL-MAR'AH in Arabic 16 Aug 95 pp 4, 5, 30

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The answer that 'Udayy brought back to Baghdad from his Amman visit did not satisfy the president, who thought that 'Udayy had a share of the blame for Husayn Kamil Hasan's defection. He also blamed 'Udayy for failing to convince Hasan to return and thought that he acted in a rude way that was unsuitable in these delicate circumstances. Saddam wanted to prove to 'Udayy that he could handle such a situation. So he made a decision and informed very few people — less than five people whom Saddam still thinks are still loyal and very close to him — of his intentions. He decided that he should leave Baghdad immediately for Amman. Saddam arrived surprisingly in the early hours of the morning disguised in the Arab dress worn by Tikrit people. However, his visit failed and lasted only one hour, after which he left in fury, threatening to cut oil supplies to Jordan. [passage omitted]

On the political level, SAWT AL-MAR'AH has learned that a meeting was held between the U.S. ambassador and Husayn Kamil during which they discussed coordination and the value of the information possessed by Hasan. Additionally, a high-ranking Saudi prince, thought to be Turki Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, director of the Saudi intelligence service, visited Amman and met with his majesty the king. He also met with Husayn Kamil, offering him asylum in Saudi Arabia and to support him in every possible way. The Saudi prince also informed the Jordanian party that Saudi Arabia fully supports Jordan and is prepared to offer financial aid and oil to Jordan. [passage omitted]

SAWT AL-MAR'AH sources also learned that Sajidah, wife of Saddam Husayn, arrived in Amman after midnight on Sunday [13 August] in an attempt to return her daughters Raghad and Rana because she thought that the two daughters did not wish to accompany their husbands in their recent flight. She conveyed a fatherly message from Saddam to his daughters, as well as a number of very important pieces of advise.

Official Denies Saddam's Wife in Amman

JN1608132595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1205 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Report by Randah Habib in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] One week after his defection to Jordan, the situation is still unclear concerning General Husayn Kamil Hasan's next move. Last Saturday, the general announced his intention to overthrow the Iraqi regime.

On the Jordanian-Iraqi border, the situation is very calm, the movements of passengers to and from Iraq is normal and no military concentrations are present on either side.

Rumors have spread. The most important of which is one on the arrival of the Iraqi president's first wife Sajidah Khayrallah Tulfah. However, a senior Jordanian official has categorically denied the presence of Sajidah in Amman and said that she has not come to Jordan since the defection of her sons-in-law and two daughters, Baghdad and Rana.

'Adil Ibrahim, the press counselor of the Iraqi embassy in Amman, has denied the presence of Mrs. Sajidah in Jordan.

The Jordanian opposition has continued to criticize the government's hosting General Hasan despite the prime minister's explanations.

On another level, the U.S. forces have started to arrive at al- 'Aqabah port in preparation for holding joint military exercises with Jordanian units as of next Friday and for 20 days. The maneuvers had been planned before General Hasan's arrival in Amman.

U.S. Embassy Reportedly Linked to Hasan Defection

MM1508173395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Aug 95

[Unattributed report: "American Experts Met with the Iraqi Minister before his Defection"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — According to informed diplomatic sources, some U.S. security experts met with Husayn Kamil on at least one of his numerous visits to Jordan. They said that the Americans met him about four months ago when he was staying at the guest house on Zahran Street (Fifth Street). They added that Husayn Kamil had visited Jordan four or five times, allegedly for treatment, and was once treated at al-Husayn Medical Center and had an operation relating to a cardiovascular problem.

They said that Husayn Kamil "during these visits used to express dissatisfaction. The Jordanians picked up the signal and passed it on to the Americans, and so a deal was proposed to him."

The same sources said that the Americans who met with Saddam's son-in-law were most probably security experts from the U.S. Embassy in Amman, which handles Iraqi affairs. They noted that President Bill Clinton's direct support for Jordan was evidence that the Americans were by no means remote from the developments which had occurred in Baghdad.

Iraqi Diplomat: Perry Statement on Army 'Baseless'

TA1608083395 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Aug 95 p 8

[Report by Amman envoy Smadar Peri]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Israel has no reason to fear an Iraqi operation." This was said yesterday by a diplomat at the Iraqi Embassy in Amman to a Jordanian journalist.

I asked the Jordanian journalist to pose this question to the Iraqi Embassy. In reaction, embassy sources said that "this is all American propaganda. As far as Iraq is concerned, nothing is going to happen, and Israelis have no reason to be concerned. It is all baloney propagated by enemies of the Iraqi regime."

The Iraqi diplomat termed Iraqi relations with Jordan as "good as always — fraternal relations." He emphasized that the Jordanian public "has no reason at all to panic."

The Iraqi diplomat also wanted to clarify that U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry's statement about "unusual movements" by the Iraqi Army is baseless. "It is all American propaganda meant to harm President Saddam Husayn's regime," said the Iraqi diplomat.

Source Dismisses Reports on 'Buildup'

JN1608082895 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 16 Aug 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a statement to AL-ASWAQ, a high-ranking [Jordanian] government source denied the presence of military concentrations on the Jordanian-Iraqi border. The source, who asked not to be identified, said that reports about Iraqi military buildup on the border with Jordan are groundless. He added that available information indicates that the situation on the border with Iraq is calm and normal, as it has been in the past days.

REUTER had earlier cited Jordanian official sources as saying they had no knowledge of any unusual buildup of Iraqi troops on borders with Jordan. Asked about rumors in Europe about movements of [Iraqi] troops, REUTER cited an official as saying: "As far as I know, there is nothing abnormal. Everything is normal on their side of the border."

Another Jordanian official told REUTER: Everything is possible, however, we have taken all necessary precautions since the first day. We are capable of dealing with any development. [passage omitted]

PLO's Qaddumi Presents 'Palestinian National Program Draft'

JN1508175595 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Aug 95 p 14

[Text of a "Palestinian National Program Draft" proposed by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO political department, presented at a news conference in Amman on 14 August]

[FBIS Translated Text] During its 19th session in 1991, the Palestine National Council approved Palestinian participation in the International Peace Conference. A few months later, a Palestinian delegation attended the Madrid Conference. Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Arab negotiations followed a few weeks later on the basis of Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, the impermissibility of the acquisition of other people's lands by force, the achievement of a just solution to the refugee problem on the basis of international legitimacy, restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights, and application of the principle of land for peace. The Palestinian people still adhere to these principles and want to establish a just and comprehensive peace on the bases of international legitimacy.

Despite the signing of the Oslo Declaration of Principles with all its shortcomings, on which we had reservations at the time, Israel has continued to purposely violate the bases of settlement, disavow its principles, exceed the Oslo provisions, and impose its own view and gross interpretation of these contractual agreements.

The first and second year have passed, but Israel has remained recalcitrant, reneging on provisions and dates to which it has committed itself. This has not been far from our own expectations. We have warned right from the beginning that Israel is not credible and that it will fail to honor its promises. So here it is today, still adamant on not withdrawing from the towns and villages of the West Bank and dragging its feet in order to entrench the occupation by other means.

The occupation still exists physically and with influence even in Gaza and Jericho. The settlements continue to spread, and thousands of detainees still exist in Israeli prisons. There is no hope for an imminent reunion of Palestinian deportees [nazihin] or concern for their basic rights. As for the refugees [laji'in] and their right to repatriation, it is still the subject of bargaining with the Israeli side.

Even on such a small scale as Gaza and Jericho, the economy is in a state of deterioration despite foreign aid, whether from the World Bank, donor states, or bilateral agreements. The official organs and the infrastructure are also still far from being stable or capable of fulfilling their role.

It has become clear to everyone, both supporters and opposers of the Oslo Agreement, that national unity has not been consolidated. This period has witnessed a standstill in PLO institutions. Palestine National Council and PLO Central Council sessions are suspended and PLO Executive Committee meetings are farfetched after several committee members have frozen their membership. Moreover, several PLO departments have moved to the interior and wages, PLO bureau budgets, and annuities for martyr families have been suspended, which means that half of the Palestinian people have been abandoned. Appointments in Palestinian National Authority agencies are made haphazardly and there is an over-employment of under secretaries, assistant under secretaries, and general directors. This has been a source of criticism within international and Palestinian circles.

On the Arab level, we find that a state of anxiety, confusion, and indifference marks the attitude toward the Palestine question so that Palestinian-Israeli agreements have become an excuse for some Arab sides to normalize their relations with Israel, while other Arabs stand perplexed and confused. Yet, there are others who have adopted an attitude of criticism and indignation. The result is that we have lost a unified Arab stand in support of the Palestine question as the central issue of the Arab nation.

On the international level, we find that the European states, which have frequently conflicted with Israel for supporting the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, opposing the annexation of Jerusalem, and condemning the settlements, have ended up with the minor role of providing financial and economic aid to the Palestinian Authority.

Even the U.S. open-door policy toward the Palestinian Authority is still dependent on the good will of the U.S. Jewish lobby and the Israeli Government. The PLO and the Palestinian Authority are still subject every few months to an accountability of their behavior by the Congress. We also have not seen any improvement in the U.S. position concerning the right of self-determination.

In face of these and other facts, and irrespective of the old points of disagreement within the Palestinian arena, we find that we are going through a serious phase, which we fear might lead to the following developments:

1. The creation of a rift between the Palestinians of the interior and exterior. There are already serious signs, such as the suggestion to elect a representative assembly in the interior and to give it the capacity to represent the Palestinian people. This would mean destroying the PLO and abandoning the refugees as part of the Palestinian people with their full rights in their homeland.

2. The continuation of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on a bilateral level without the existence of any international authority in order to force the Palestinian side to make more concessions on the path of capitulation rather than peace, while we continue to hear the usual excuse that the Palestinian side has no other choice. This would make the Palestinian Authority become deeply involved in dealing with the Israeli side politically and economically, and therefore slowly moving away from its own people in the first place, and its Arab nation in the second. Internationally, however, the Israeli side has greater influence on the advanced states, which are also the donor states.

3. The gradual weakening of the Palestinian leadership and its isolation from the masses. Thus, this leadership would turn into a mere tool of suppression to protect itself and Israeli security. Furthermore, it would only exercise the powers that are acceptable to Israel on a divided land and towns and villages that would look like small isolated islands surrounded by Israeli forces, settlers, and settlements.

The question now is: How can we avoid these dangers and others?

And, the answer is: By a serious return to the broadest representative factions of the Palestinian people for dialogue and full appraisal.

Now that it has been proven two years after Oslo that Israel, or its present government, does not want to withdraw from the West Bank or commit itself to the deployment of its forces on the approved dates and locations and that it continues to build settlements and does not want to allow the establishment of an independent Palestinian economic base, no one should have the right to accuse the Palestinian side of being obstinate and that all it can say is "No." In fact, the world will understand any position we take for taking stock [li al-muraja'ah]. It behooves us to take a quick stock of our course in the ongoing negotiations after they have lost their political substance and slipped to the level of daily demands. Therefore, we believe in the need for a qualitative shift in the Palestinian position to safeguard our political principles and national rights to self-determination and the establishment of our independent state. We should work according to the bases of the settlement that seeks a just and comprehensive peace which maintains a balance of interests and protects the inalienable national rights. We must follow the Palestinian dialogue and its results with an Arab dialogue.

Then the whole file or course could be taken on the international level.

In taking stock, we propose the following: 1. A. Preserving the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and as a political and legislative institution for the Palestinian National Authority.

B. Reconsidering the issue of combining membership in the PLO Executive Committee with membership in the Palestinian Authority and preserving the Executive Committee and its legal quorum, since it is tantamount to a provisional Palestinian government according to the decision which the Palestine Council adopted during its 18th session.

C. Reshuffling the National Authority so that it will consist of national figures who are residents of the interior under a decision by the Executive Committee.

D. The Executive Committee should undertake the responsibility of negotiations in the final phase after the full implementation of the measures of the transitional phase.

E. Paying constant attention to the question of reactivating the work of the PLO departments and institutions outside the occupied homeland.

2. A. Emphasizing the point that the Palestinian assembly that will be elected during the transitional phase will be a part, not a replacement, of the Palestine National Council.

B. Emphasizing the point that the elected assembly will be a legislative authority, which will produce an executive authority, and that combining the presidencies of the two authorities is impermissible.

C. The Palestinian National Authority and the elected assembly must not touch the Palestinian National Charter or the PLO program in the negotiations during the transitional phase.

D. The PLO should immediately ensure the annual budget for the PLO and its departments and institutions.

The Palestinian National Authority should assume the following tasks during the transitional phase:

1. Free the Palestinian economy from Israeli domination, develop this economy, and create jobs for Palestinian workers.

2. Avoid the normalization of relations with Israel before the full withdrawal of the Israeli army from Palestinian land.

3. Encourage popular organizations and popular action and develop the activity of these organizations.

4. Establish a Palestinian monetary authority and a central Palestinian bank, and develop a modern fiscal system which will encourage private enterprise and economic cooperation with fraternal and friendly states on the basis of signed agreements.

5. Set laws and regulations with the view to achieving the ambitions and aspirations of our people in the political, economic, social, and cultural fields.

6. Prepare a declared annual budget for the Palestinian National Authority, with all its local components, institutions, and departments, and refer this budget to the Executive Committee for ratification and endorsement.

7. Contribute to strengthening Palestinian national unity and to the cohesion of the people's forces.

8. Guarantee public liberties for the individual and the group.

9. Protect the freedom of the press and defend journalists in accordance with the principles of democracy.

10. Emphasize political pluralism and that the homeland belongs to everyone.

11. Ensure respect for human rights and the organizations and institutions working in this field.

12. Entrench the existence of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem, preserve the activities of Palestinian institutions and religious places in it, ensure the people's participation in all activities, including the right to election and nomination, protect their political and civil rights, and resist attempts at Judaizing Jerusalem.

13. Maintain the spirit of resistance against Israeli oppression and settlement activities and develop the awareness of continuing national struggle in order to establish the people's sovereignty and ownership over all their land and remove the settlements.

14. Strive to repatriate Palestinian deportees [nazihin] through cooperation with fraternal Egypt and Jordan and ensure all facilities for their settlement and rehabilitation inside the Palestinian land.

15. Look after the families of martyrs, disabled, and detainees, and work hard for the release of detainees from Israeli prisons and detention camps.

16. Honor our righteous martyrs by erecting monuments and naming streets, squares, and schools after them in the towns and villages and hold celebrations on national days out of national gratitude.

SANA Director General Sees 'Mass Uprising' in Iraq

JN1608104895 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0735 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 16 Aug (SANA) — The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: What attracts attention following the defection of the most important pillar of the Iraqi regime [Husayn Kamil Hasan] and his companions is this heated race between the two parties [the defectors and the Iraqi regime] to provide information on what remained of the Iraqi weapons.

In an article by Dr. Fayiz al-Sayigh, director general of the SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY, headlined "An Opinion of What Is Going On" under the column "Together on the Road," AL-THAWRAH adds: One party is blaming the other and vice versa. The goal of the two parties is to extend services and to provide information under the pretext of lifting the embargo against the Iraqi people, as if these people have imposed the blockade on themselves and as if their leadership is only responsible for offering information and secrets, which, no matter how accurate, objective, or credible they may be, will not contribute to lifting the blockade. The blockade will be lifted once all pack their luggage and push their way, even if to hell — the worst fate.

The paper goes on to say: Notwithstanding the nature, circumstances, and background of the trend adopted by the defectors from Iraq and the kind of role they can undertake to replace the fascist ruling system in Iraq, indications suggest that the regional functions of the regime vis-a-vis the situation in the Gulf, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the peace process, and the repercussions of the first Gulf war, and the domestic situation in northern and southern Iraq, are still operative.

AL-THAWRAH explains that all these factors render the blow dealt by the defection of the powerful officials a weak one that might strengthen, rather than enfeeble, [the regime], particularly in light of an [Iraqi] opposition plagued by contradictions, clashing, dissidence, and fragmentation. Thus, in many cases, this opposition might be useful, more than harmful, to the regime.

AL-THAWRAH further states: Contrary to current reports, expectations, and predictions regarding the domestic situation in Iraq and contrary to what has been said about military or intelligence forces in Iraq, about the size of the opposition and the powerful defectors, or about mutual reservations, the picture is inaccurate and expectations and predictions will remain locked in the minds of their owners, because most of these expectations ignored the role of the large-scale movement of masses in our beloved Iraq.

Concluding, the newspaper says: Most probably, the expected change will be a mass uprising that would attract all the elements of revolution, coupled with the spontaneity of people and the credibility of the goal, means, and slogans. When the people's balance of justice is established and its bell can be heard by all people, all those whose hands are stained with blood, be they inside or outside Iraq, will be punished.

'Furor' Over Reactor Deal With Argentina Criticized

MM1508112895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Damascus Confirms Report of Agreement, Criticizes Furor Over It; Syrian Experts in Argentina To Conclude Peaceful Nuclear Reactor Deal"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, Buenos Aires, news agencies — Syrian experts arrived in the Argentine capital the day before yesterday to conclude negotiations concerning purchasing an Argentine nuclear reactor to be used for peaceful purposes.

The Syrian experts will spend four days in Buenos Aires, during which they will meet with Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella, a number of Argentine officials, and representatives of the Argentine Atomic Energy Agency.

The Syrian delegation is headed by Dr. Ibrahim Haddad, director general of the [Syrian] Atomic Energy Agency.

During the visit the Syrian experts will inspect an Argentine nuclear reactor similar to the reactor to be purchased in the city of Bariloche, south of Buenos Aires.

In Damascus, Syrian sources have confirmed reports of the deal, saying that the agreement to purchase the reactor was concluded during the visit to Damascus last November by Argentine President Carlos Menem (of Syrian origin).

The sources said that this experimental reactor is weak, since its capacity does not exceed 3 megawatts, and it will be used for medical purposes.

The sources criticized the furor over the Argentine nuclear reactor that Damascus is seeking to purchase, while there is complete silence about the Israeli nuclear capability — all sources have confirmed that that is a military capability and that the Hebrew state is in possession of at least 200 nuclear warheads.

The U.S. arms control agency has published a report accusing Syria of working to develop its offensive capabilities in the biological weapons field, and saying that this is arousing Washington's concern.

But Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, who visited Israel in June, assured Tel Aviv that his country will sell Syria a reactor "for absolutely peaceful purposes."

Press Denounces Israeli 'Escalation' in Lebanon

JN1508112695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Aug 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the regional peace process and the obstructionist and destructive efforts Israel has made to preclude the attainment of just and comprehensive peace, holding Israel directly and fully responsible for the predicament plaguing the peace process, which threatens the entire process with collapse—something which could push the region into a vicious circle of violence and chaos once again.

AL-BA'TH adds: Since the convening of the Madrid conference, Israel has been adept at sabotaging all the serious international efforts made to render the peace talks a success. It should be recalled that these talks are grounded in the relevant UN resolutions and international legitimacy. Israel has taken part in the peace process only to sabotage and kill it and render it void of any meaningful content. The separate agreements Israel has concluded with some parties reflect the true Israeli intentions, as well as its handling of the peace process. Israel seek to force its flawed and distorted version of peace, which is meant to impose established facts, nurture its expansionist drive, and promote settlement activities as a prelude to political, economic, and cultural penetration. Moreover, Israel aims to turn the Arab homeland into a mere market in which its hegemony and domination may rein supreme. All this is meant to be achieved at the expense of the Arabs' interests and rights.

AL-BA'TH believes that this Israeli policy has been reflected in the brutal military escalation against southern Lebanon, where Israel is pursuing a terrorist scorched earth policy in a failed bid to force its version of peace on both Syria and Lebanon. Nonetheless, AL-BA'TH maintains that this bid is doomed to abject failure, because Damascus and Beirut are adamant in their firm peace stand. Additionally, aggression and terrorism will only promote the two fraternal countries' steadfastness, their adherence to their legitimate rights, and their determination to liberate each and every inch of occupied Arab territory.

In its editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN says: All peoples view occupation as a burden. Occupation is a potential source of tension and conflagration everywhere. Israel's wager that time could obliterate the ugly facts of the Israeli occupation is a losing wager. The course of events has shown that separate deals cannot bring peace to the region. The separate deals Israel has thus far concluded have all been to the detriment of Arab rights, territory, and dignity.

TISHRIN adds: The Israeli Government has thought that the Oslo accord will liquidate the Palestine question and bring the Israelis security, stability, and peace. Nonetheless, this has not materialized and will not materialize, because the Gaza-Jericho accord has only created additional problems, burdens, and crises. Hence, this accord will remain unacceptable to the Palestinian people. This accord is inevitably doomed.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: The Rabin government's wagers on the time factor to evade the requirements of peace, and its efforts to blackmail Syria and force the policy of established facts on the Palestinian people reflect an exposed maneuver that will deceive nobody. Moreover, this will not change the fact that peace is the antithesis of occupation and hegemony.

Radio Assails Israeli 'Aggression' in Lebanon

JN1508152895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Israel has recently stepped up its air and ground attacks against Lebanon, has tightened its siege of the southern ports, and did not hesitate to open fire at Lebanese fishermen — who were deprived of the means of making their living. What is strange is that Israel justifies its growing hostility by alleging that it is fighting terrorism and the enemies of peace. Destroying Lebanese villages and houses, displacing residents, and burning agricultural crops is not terrorism in Israel's view. Similarly, killing people, attacking innocent people with air-to-surface missiles, preventing Lebanese fishermen from fishing in their country's territorial waters is not terrorism.

Israel views as terrorism any attempt by any Lebanese citizen to defend his land and dignity and to hamper the activity of the Israeli occupation forces. It also views as terrorism any attempt by any Palestinian citizen or organization to voice objection to the false agreements which are being concluded in the name of peace and which entrench Israel's absolute control of the potential of the Palestinian people and cancel their legitimate national rights.

In fact, it is not strange for Israel to adopt such a crooked logic. Since its establishment in the region, Israel has been forging facts, distorting realities, and launching scores of wars and aggressions in the name of peace and security. Israel announced on the morning of the June 1967 aggression that it had no ambition for any inch of Arab land and that it wanted nothing other than peace. But today, it says that it will not return to the 1967 borders, thereby creating obstacles to the peace process under the security pretext, as if peace and security were at odds.

Israel is not only taking such an intransigent position conflicting with the bases of the Madrid conference, the resolutions of the Security Council, and the principle of land for peace, but also continues its aggressions against Lebanon — in a clear message to Lebanon and Syria that Israel's hostile, expansionist nature has not changed, that its talk about peace is only aimed at throwing dust in the eyes, that the occupation of territories is more important than peace, and that Lebanon will be exposed to more aggression unless it abandons its demand for the implementation of Resolution 425 and completely bows to Israel and cuts its ties with its family, it affiliation, its identity, and its future.

It is natural for Lebanon to reject such dictations and confront Israel's attempts to interfere in its affairs to disrupt its unity and explode the country into conflicting entities. It is natural for Syria to strongly stand by Lebanon's side because both countries are facing Israel's plot to drown the region in the furnace of sectarian wars. It is also natural for both countries to stick to the resolutions of the Security Council and the bases of just peace and reject any bargain over the principle of Israel's total withdrawal and the retrieval of the whole Golan and southern Lebanon.

It is also natural for both countries to strongly object to Israel's plans to strike unilateral deals and partial settlements after they have witnessed how the peace process is being distorted and deviated from its goals in the occupied Arab territories, where the occupation turns unexpectedly into a factor of stability and where security, the settlers, and the settlements have become the goal of goals of both the Israeli and Palestinian sides.

Israel's aggression and practices have been exposed to all, and Israel will never be able to prevent Lebanon from demanding its land and its rights or to prevent Syria from seeking a just and comprehensive peace in the region through a strict implementation of the Security Council's resolutions and Israel's total withdrawal beyond the lines of 4 June 1967. These aggressions will only increase the belief in the region and the world that Israel does not want peace, but wants expansion and aggression and that the partial agreements, which it has concluded or wishes to conclude, are only a time bomb that will undermine the hope for a just peace in the Middle East.

Israel Using 'Time Factor' To Force Change in Policy

JN1508143495 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0740 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 15 Aug (SANA)—TISHRIN says Rabin's government is trying to use the time factor as an instrument of blackmail on the Syrian track and as a means to impose a fait accompli on the Palestinian track. It said the Israeli Government has recently promulgated that the stalemate of the peace process and the passage of time are not in Syria's interest and that Damascus should start easing its position and adopt decisive decisions before it is too late—that is before the election year in Israel and the United States.

In an editorial by its Chief Editor Muhammad Khayr al-Wadi, the newspaper said that to Israel, the easing of position means that Damascus accepts the Israeli concept of security arrangements in the Golan and abandons the principle of full withdrawal to 4 June 1967 borders.

TISHRIN says: Syria is aware of the importance of time for the peace process and is eager to realize just peace today rather than tomorrow. It has made great efforts to advance the peace process to reach positive results as soon as possible, but Israeli intransigence and procrastination delayed the peace process on the Syrian-Lebanese tracks and eventually stalled the process.

The newspaper stressed: Israel's attempt to blackmail via the time factor will not be fruitful because although Syria is eager to maintain the time factor, it cannot accept a settlement that gives Israel security privileges and keeps part of the Golan under occupation, whether for a long or a short time.

The newspaper said Rabin's government also uses the time factor to get what it wants and impose its conditions on the Palestinian side. It said that Tel Aviv believes that time will prove that the Oslo deal and the distorted agreements resulted from it with a fait accompli and will make the Palestinian people abandon the option of resistance and contend with coexistence with occupation.

The newspaper added: It should be recalled that the reasons of the Palestinian people's intifadah and their continuous revolutions over the past decades were the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, the dispersing of millions of Palestinians, and the continuation of the systematic and gradual confiscation of land through construction of settlements.

It stressed: These factors led the Palestinian people to carry weapons and launch resistance actions against the occupiers. It added: An analytical view of the Oslo agreement shows that this deal did not end the Palestinians' suffering and did not make their lives easier. The occupation remained as it is, although in some areas it was exchanged for the formula of redeployment, and the settlements will remain in place and will not be removed now or in the future as Shim'on Peres said.

The paper concluded by saying: The attempts by Rabin's government to hide behind the time factor in order to evade the peace requirements and to blackmail Syria and impose a fait accompli policy on the Palestinian people are an exposed maneuver that will not deceive anyone and will not change the reality which says that peace and occupation and the hegemonic tendency are antitheses that cannot meet regardless of time.

Egypt's Sidqi Briefs al-Asad on Committee Meeting

JN1508163795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad received Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and the members of the Egyptian side to the meetings of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee at the People's Palace at 1315 today. [passage omitted]

The meeting was also attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Syrian Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish, and Egyptian Ambassador in Damascus Mahmud 'Ali Shukri.

The president was briefed during the meeting by Dr. 'Afif Sidqi and Mahmud al-Zubi on the overall work and decisions of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee and on agreements of cooperation in various fields. The president voiced his content with the work of the higher committee and with the atmosphere that prevailed in the meetings. He also called for more extensive efforts to benefit from the available potential to increase cooperation between the two fraternal counties.

Bangladesh

Radio Welcomes Clinton Stand on Nuclear Test Ban

BK1308131795 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 12 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest announcement by the U.S. Administration expressing its support for a total ban on nuclear tests augurs well for effective nuclear disarmament. U.S. President Bill Clinton reportedly said in Washington that the United States will now emphasize a test ban that will prohibit any nuclear weapons tests.

The United States made this announcement one day after France made a similar call for a test ban at an international conference in Geneva. The Geneva disarmament conference is concerned with international arrangements for effective nuclear disarmament. Negotiations are being held now to sign a treaty on the issue. In Geneva, France said that it will accept a total nuclear test ban during the talks on the treaty next year. At present, the United States is playing a similar role.

This initiative taken by two major nuclear powers to sign an Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, CTBT, is undoubtedly an auspicious move. Hence it can be expected that the CTBT will ban all kinds of nuclear tests. To ensure this, concrete proposals regarding a nuclear test ban will be submitted during the talks. Owing to the pledges made by the nuclear powers to ban all kinds of nuclear tests, the prospects for effective nuclear disarmament are bright. The most welcome effect of the end of the Cold War is the reduction in the threat of nuclear disaster, but the threat has not disappeared. There remains a huge quantity of nuclear arms sufficient to kill all the people in the world several times. Hence the nuclear threat is not an issue to be neglected. Though the threat has lessened, it has not totally disappeared.

In this context, concern arises over the nuclear weapons stockpile. Despite the signing of the intermediate range nuclear forces treaty in 1987 and two subsequent treaties on the reduction of strategic arms by the United States and Russia, no progress has been made regarding the dismantling of nuclear weapons. These treaties have helped reduce tension, but they have certain limitations. The treaties specify that warheads be removed from launching pads, but they do not say anything about destroying these weapons. A technically or politically feasible plan to dismantle warheads has yet to arise.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the situation has become complex. The treaties signed with the Soviets must now be made with its successor states. Apart from this, the spread of nuclear arms is a major cause of concern. Several countries are carrying out programs to acquire nuclear weapons. Apart from the currently recognized nuclear powers, several countries possess nuclear weapons or are believed capable of producing nuclear weapons on short notice. Some countries have the aspiration to acquire nuclear weapons status. For these reasons, the prospects of a nuclear threat have increased.

About [figure indistinct] countries have signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. A proposal has been submitted to extend this treaty for an indefinite period after 1995, but there are doubts as to whether the treaty will hold. Some countries that agree in principle complain that this treaty gives special privileges to those who acquired nuclear weapons earlier. Some developing countries are also reluctant to agree [words indistinct] because as a result they will not be able to acquire the technology for nonnuclear use. Besides, there are some practical problems with this treaty. The treaty says that technology should not be transferred. It is a difficult task to achieve coordination among exporting countries.

In this context, efforts should be intensified to bring an end to the misunderstanding about a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. It is also essential to put an end to the direct threats made by representatives of some countries. Everyone should realize that priority should be given to removing the nuclear threat to ensure the security and survival of mankind.

Minister Urges 'Emergency' OIC Bosnia Summit

BK1508164495 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has requested the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] countries to hold a special emergency summit meeting to discuss the situation in Bosnia and adopt a common strategy. A Foreign Ministry spokesman told a news briefing in Dhaka today the prime minister's letters to the heads of state and government of the member countries were handed over to the envoys of the OIC countries in the capital. The letter contains suggestions for some specific steps, including possible presence of troops from Bangladesh and other OIC countries under the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR]. The spokesman said Bangladesh is willing to provide a well-armed battalion, which could work with five more battalions from five other troop-contributing OIC countries to the UNPROFOR for protecting Gorazde. He said Bangladesh also called for air cover from the NATO and other necessary protective measures from the UN to deter the Serb aggressors. The spokesman said Bangladesh supports the OIC stand, which considers the arms embargo on Bosnia as null and void under the UN Charter.

Foreign Minister S.M. Mustafizur Rahman will go to the United States soon to discuss the Bosnian situation with U.S. officials.

Minister Stresses Vital Interest in Indian Ocean

BK1508051495 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 0100 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman has said that Bangladesh has vital economic and security interests in Indian Ocean region. Addressing a day-long seminar on Indian Ocean rim in Dhaka yesterday, the foreign minister said Bangladesh has already welcomed the initiative of the governments of Mauritius and Australia for the establishment of Indian Ocean regional forum. The forum aims to enhance cooperation and social prosperity among the countries of this region. He said such regional cooperation will help eliminate the causes of tension and instability and advance peace and prosperity of the region. Rahman expressed the hope that Bangladesh will become a member. He said Bangladesh is not only well-known for being the founder of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, it is also making significant contributions to the establishment of the Indian Ocean regional forum by playing a constructive role.

Commentary Supports Bid To Join Regional Forum

BK1608090795 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangladesh seeks to join the Indian Ocean rim. While addressing a seminar in Dhaka yesterday, Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman said Bangladesh has already welcomed initiatives for the establishment of the rim proposed by the governments of Mauritius and Australia. Dhaka has a vital economic and security interest in the Indian Ocean region, the foreign minister pointed out, adding that the rim of the ocean is important to Bangladesh. The Indian Ocean rim aims at enhancing cooperation and social prosperity among the nations of the region. Justifying the formation of the rim, Mustafizur Rahman said such a regional cooperation helps diminish the causes of tension and instability and promotes peace and stability in the region.

While advocating Bangladesh's entry into the Indian Ocean rim, the foreign minister said Dhaka has not only strong credentials as the architect of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC], but has also contributed substantially to the development of the Indian Ocean rim by playing a constructive role. The daylong seminar organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs exchanged the views about the emergence of the Indian Ocean rim as a new regional body.

The rim stipulates strengthening economic cooperation among the countries of the region. Earlier, the governments of Mauritius and Australia had hosted two separate international meetings in March and June this year. Bangladesh supported the initiative on the rim and would like to play a constructive role in the formative stage of the evolution of the Indian Ocean rim. Bangladesh's plea to join the Indian Ocean rim is warranted by the country's quest for peace and progress in the region inhabited by the majority of the world's poor. Bangladesh has always been concerned about guarantees [for] regional peace and sovereignty. It has always worked for relaxation of tension in the region, spoken against war and violence. It believes in sovereign equality and noninterference in the internal affairs of states and opposes hegemony in any form. Bangladesh has officially sought guarantees against nuclear attack or nuclear blackmail and wants establishment of a nuclear weapons-free zone in South Asia.

Bangladesh is in favor of implementing the United Nations declaration on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, but does not believe in the theory of a power vacuum in the sense that a local nuclear power would replace the extraregional great powers in the area. It has been an oft-repeated policy of Bangladesh to favor peaceful resolution of regional conflicts.

As the founder of the SAARC, Bangladesh has repeatedly urged the concerned parties in Sri Lanka's ethnic civil war, [and] India and Pakistan to show restraint and embark upon a process of political settlement. In fact, adherence to nonuse of force in interstate relations has been a principled position of Bangladesh and Bangladesh seems to stand in a better position in the Indian Ocean rim to try and mitigate the differences in any two conflicting regional states [words indistinct]. The SAARC as a regional body has achieved quite a headway through a collaborative approach which should be followed by the Indian Ocean rim, if formed, and the South Asian region is home to a fifth of the world's population and nearly half of the world's poor.

The challenge for the countries of South Asia is to find a path to sustainable development that can simultaneously stimulate growth, reduce poverty, and protect the environment, which are also pressing issues of countries located in the Indian Ocean rim. On the other hand, the lessons of SAARC could be followed by the states of the Indian Ocean rim for better economic management. Recent progress in economic management in South Asia is evident in three specific areas — fiscal reforms, public enterprise, and regulatory reforms and trade reforms. And both Bangladesh and India make noteworthy progress in deepening and broadening the scope of adjustment and fiscal reforms progress.

Government's Liberal Investment Policy Viewed

BK1008055695 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 9 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The flow of investments from South Korea to Bangladesh is expected to increase in the coming days. This was stated by the leader of the South Korean parliamentary delegation, Sang Chun-chung, when he called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in Dhaka yesterday. The delegation assured the prime minister that South Korea is keen to expand the existing economic cooperation. The delegation said the recent visit of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to South Korea has generated confidence of Korean investors in investing in Bangladesh. It added that this visit has given the country a positive image among the Korean industrialists, and described Khaleda Zia's decision to set up a special industrial zone for its South Korean industrialists in southeastern Chittagong as timely. They said this would help increase Korean investments in Bangladesh.

Welcoming the delegation to Bangladesh, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia expressed the hope that its would further brighten the image of Bangladesh in South Korea. Emphasizing the need for increased economic cooperation, Begum Zia expressed the hope that both countries would continue to move ahead as partners in development.

Bangladesh is now a safe and reliable place for foreign investors. The two export processing zones in Chittagong and Dhaka have created a positive and favorable atmosphere for foreign investors. Investors from all parts of the world stretching from the United States to South Korea have set up units in these zones and are reaping the benefits of their investments. In comparison to other countries of Asia, Bangladesh has attracted more local and foreign investors. Bangladesh has the cheapest and an easily trainable labor force. Of its population of 110 million, the labor force is 50.7 million.

Bangladesh is one of the three leading countries of Asia offering an unconditional 100 percent foreign equity ownership in industrial investment. Its inflation rate compared to other countries in Asia is also the lowest. Besides, there is no restriction on the issue of work permits to foreign nationals. Bangladesh is giving residence permits to foreigners and is also very liberal in granting citizenship. The only condition for getting permanent residence status is investing a nonrefundable $75,000 only in any industrial project. To get Bangladeshi citizenship, one has to invest a minimum of $500,000 or transfer $1 million, which is nonrefundable, to any recognized financial organization.

Bangladesh enjoys the most favored nation status given by a number of countries including the United States. Bangladesh has signed a trade and investment treaty with the United States. As one of the least developing countries, it enjoys the generalized status of preference facilities for favorable exports to the U.S. Legal protection against denationalization for all foreign investments in Bangladesh is given by an act of parliament. Noncommercial rates of investment here are also ensured by a multinational insurance guarantee. The present government has given a lot of incentives to foreign investors. Foreign exchange regulations have been relaxed to the maximum by the recent free convertibility of Taka. This has accelerated the free flow of international business transactions. On the other hand, the repatriation of foreign capital investment along with profits and dividends have been made easy and simplified. Now, no prior permission from any authority is needed for their repatriation.

India

'Opposition' to U.S. Arms to Pakistan Conveyed

BK1608093095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has conveyed its strong opposition to the United States to its proposal to transfer sophisticated arms to Pakistan. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, said that India is closely monitoring the Clinton administration's proposal to supply P-3C Orion reconnaissance aircraft and Harpoon missiles to Islamabad despite the Pressler Amendment. In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, he said India is also aware of Pakistan's acquisition of the missiles and other sophisticated arms technology from different sources. He said the Indian side has conveyed its concern to those governments in bilateral discussions. All necessary steps have been taken to safeguard India's interests.

U.S. Interest in Jammu, Kashmir Elections Viewed

BK1608055795 Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Aug 95 p 8

[Article by O.N. Dhar: "U.S. Interest in J&K"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] While it is difficult to predict whether the Government of India will be able to implement its repeated pronouncements to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir [J&K] this year, a close study of U.S. interest in the issue, in the view of some observers, brings up some baffling perceptions, replete with contradictions.

Is the U.S. sincerely of the view that holding elections in the State will provide some kind of a solution to the problem which according to its officially-stated viewpoint can be tackled only through a meaningful dialogue between India and Pakistan "keeping in view the wishes of the people of the State"? Any poll process without a dialogue between New Delhi and Islamabad and without any direct participation by parties and outfits operating at the behest of Pakistan can hardly fit in with such an official American policy. How is it then that Washington has seemingly been prodding New Delhi to go ahead with the process determinedly?

The U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Frank Wisner, is an acknowledged friend of India. What he says on Kashmir or in regard to Indo-Pakistan relations has, therefore, to be viewed with a higher degree of significance. According to published reports of his four-day visit to the trouble-torn State in June, Mr. Wisner had long discussions with not only militant leaders like Yasin Malik of the JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] and Shabir Shah of the People's League but also with the leaders of the Hurriyat Conference, National Conference and the Congress. He visited two of the several migrant camps in Jammu and expressed concern over their plight. A Jammu English daily quoted him as having told a gathering at the Muthi camp that "we look forward to the return of the migrants to their hearths and homes in the Kashmir Valley very soon."

Much more significant, however, was the reported remark of Mr. Wisner that the situation in Kashmir is reaching a "point of decision". What could have made him so optimistic? As far as one can see, there is no new factor in the recent months to make him so hopeful about the "point of decision". Was Mr. Wisner merely giving expression to his own thinking or hopes — or were his remarks representative of some firm U.S. thinking on a possible new line of approach to bring about a settlement?

Interestingly, a leading Urdu Weekly CHATTAN published from Srinagar — reputed for its powerful presentation of militant thinking and actions in the valley — splashed on its front page on June 11 an article captioned "The Moment of Decision Has Come?" Mr. Wisner's reported remark about the "point of decision" in Kashmir having arrived, came just a fortnight later: sheer coincidence undoubtedly, but indicative, all the same, of an uncanny conjunction on the part of an important segment of militant opinion and the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton's representative in New Delhi.

According to the periodical, while the "aims, perceptions and priorities of the parties involved vary, one thing which emerges in clear terms is that several world powers — the United States in particular — have once again started interesting themselves in Kashmir's affairs." "Although", in the opinion of the writer of this story, "the U.S. has repeatedly contended that it has no intention of intervening in the dispute or of acting as a mediator — unless both the parties want it to act so — there is hardly any doubt left that behind the scenes the pressure on India to solve the problem is growing... New Delhi's endeavour to go ahead with its election programme despite non-cooperation from the people and hostility to the move shown by the government's own employees coupled with dark shadows cast by a recrudescence of bloodshed and violence, establishes clearly that the facade of proposed elections hides some assurances and promises held out by India to foreign powers..."

Kashmir watchers feel that there is much more than meets the eye in Mr. Narasimha Rao's one-point plan to hold elections at any cost. The story in CHATTAN on June 11 held that "after 1990 it is the first time that people can perceive that the Government of India, notwithstanding its brave declarations and an apparent bid to increase security forces' pressure on insurgents at war against it, is feeling itself under extreme pressure..." Kashmir observers, interestingly, tend to concur with this view.

Interestingly, the CHATTAN in the very same issue, displayed prominently a long interview with the chief of the Jamaat-e-Islami in occupied Kashmk, Abdul Rashid Trabi. According to Trabi, Kashmiris have "done their job" in the current struggle and "the remaining part of the task is to be accomplished by Pakistan." In his view, whether the powers that be in Islamabad like it or not, there is no way out for them. "The feeling of isolation which the militant struggle in the valley is experiencing at some crucial moments presently cannot be allowed to last long — Pakistan has got to take the next step..."

Asked if the "next step" could even mean going to war with India, Trabi reportedly said, "Pakistan, after all, is not just an observer of the current struggle. It has to fulfil its logical task... The 'Mujahideen' in the valley have more than accomplished their part of the task". Pakistan can hardly afford to let down the fighters in Kashmir. It is a party to the struggle in the valley and has to fulfill its responsibility..."

What then are the prospects in Kashmir? Has the situation indeed reached a "point of decision"? How is it that the United States, Hurriyat and fundamentalist thinking appear to be on a common wavelength? Is New Delhi really under irresistible pressure to resolve the tangle which has defied a solution over a period of 47 long years? Does the plan to hold elections in the violence- stricken State represent a sincere endeavour to bring about some semblance of normality or does it provide a convenient cover to the U.S. effort to induce India to get rid of the Kashmir headache?

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi's significant declaration at Tangdhar in the valley on July 2 that "we are prepared to talk to anyone without any preconditions in order to resolve the Kashmir problem" is regarded as highly significant in this context. New Delhi's stand thus far had been that talks with militants could be held if they gave up arms and were prepared to accept the Constitution of India. What could have occasioned the significant turnabout?

Mr. Chaturvedi reportedly told the gathering at Tangdhar that he was in the State to advise the people to take "a conscientious decision to participate in the elections and elect the right persons and the right party". But what happens, ask some observers, if people take his advice seriously and, "persuaded" by the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] outfits and their weaponry, "elect" pro- Pakistan leaders as their representatives and the members so elected in their very first act as people's nominees proclaim J&K's accession to India to be null and void and further declare that the people of the valley have decided to cast their lot with Pakistan? How can anyone in New Delhi justifiably refuse to go along with a declaration made by an assembly elected under its own aegis?

This may sound far-fetched, a highly unlikely eventuality. Just as the rumours rife in the valley in July-August, 1989 about the infiltration of hundreds of trained and armed Kashmiri "guerillas" were dismissed as wild gossip. Elections have to be held, sooner or later. Sooner the better. But in its anxiety to accomplish the task can New Delhi throw to winds all caution and ignore even the basic premise of candidates swearing their loyalty to India and its Constitution?

Interestingly, according to highly knowledgeable sources in Srinagar, when Mr. Wisner tried to reason with the Hurriyat leaders on the desirability of their participation in the elections they vehemently opposed the idea; but there reportedly was a significant segment of opinion not totally averse to the proposition, provided the U.S. representative was prepared to guarantee not only a fair poll but also that nomination papers of candidates not affirmimg allegiance to the Constitution of India will not be rejected. What Mr. Wisner's response was is not known but the later part of the reported demand may be a significant pointer to the trend of thinking of those in the Hurriyat camp known to be close to the State Department in Washington.

Official 'Optimistic' of Solution to Hostage Issue

BK1608050295 Hong Kong AFP in English
0451 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Aug 16 (AFP) — A deadline set by the Muslim separatist kidnappers of four Western tourists loomed Wednesday [16 August] as a strike called to protest the killing of a Norwegian hostage crippled the Kashmir Valley.

Kashmir government officials said the authorities had been in touch with the abductors of Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, American Donald Hutchings, 42, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, on several occasions Tuesday.

"The contact is on through someone and we are optimistic a solution to the hostage crisis will be found soon," one official said. "We cannot divulge the details of the contacts for the sake of the safety of the other tourists."

Source close to the authorities said that government negotiators had asked the kidnappers, the previously unknown Muslim separatist group Al-Faran, for proof that the four Western hostages are still alive.

Al-Faran killed Norwegian hostage Hans-Christian Ostro over the weekend and threatened to kill the other four Western hostages if 15 Muslim militants were not released from prison by Tuesday.

At the request of the Indian authorities, the deadline was extended by 24 hours from Tuesday morning to Wednesday morning.

The Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley was paralyzed Wednesday by a general strike called by an umbrella organization of 30 Kashmiri Muslim separatist groups to protest the death of the Norwegian hostage.

Shops, offices, markets, banks and other establishments were closed and traffic was off the roads in this Kashmir summer capital, witnesses said.

The headless body of the 27-year-old Ostro was found Sunday in a remote Kashmir village near where he and the other four tourists were abducted early last month.

An autopsy performed in New Delhi found that the Norwegian had died of decapitation, according to government sources.

Ostro's murder was condemned both internationally and by Kashmiri Muslim separatist groups, which called for the immediate release of the other four hostages.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, the only Muslim- majority state in predominantly-Hindu India since the Muslim insurgency began in 1989.

Officials Address 'Barbaric' Killing of Hostage

BK1608090995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The members of the Lok Sabha today expressed concern over the senseless and barbaric killing of a Norwegian tourist by militants in Jammu and Kashmir. Raising the matter during zero hour, Mr. Saifuddin Chaudhary, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], said that Hans Christian-Ostro came to India only for tourist purposes with the hope that the militants will not harm him. He demanded the government to take immediate measures for the release of other four hostages still in the captivity of the militants.

In Kashmir valley, most towns are observing a hartal [strike] today to condemn the killing of the Norwegian tourist, Hans Christian-Ostro, by Al-Faran. The call for the strike has been given by the Hurriyat Conference. In a statement, it said Mr. Ostro was the guest of the people of Kashmir and his killing is a matter of shame for the Kashmiri people.

The general secretary of the PCCI [Pradesh, State Congress Committee-I] and secretary of the state CPI-M, Mr. Mohammad Yusuf Taragami, has said that the Hurriyat Conference must take a clear cut stand against all kidnappings and killings, whether of local people or of foreigners by the militants in the state, so that the long trail of violence can come to an end.

The Hurriyat Conference is an apex body of several militant and political organizations in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prime Minister Rao Gives Independence Day Address

BK1508120895 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi 0201 GMT 15 Aug 95

[Address by Prime Minister Narashima Rao to the nation marking independence day from Red Fort in New Delhi — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear countrymen: I extend my sincere greetings to you all today on this sacred morning of the auspicious occasion of the 49th anniversary of an independent India. With your cooperation, support and determination, our country today stands with its head held high in the comity of nations. Today, I am here before you for the fifth time during the five-year tenure of my government. It is my responsibility today to present all accounts of my government to you for the past five years and give some hint about the direction and the picture of the future that I visualize.

You know about the conditions of the country in 1991 when this government came to power. It was at the brink of political disorganization and economic crisis, and was almost at the brink of bankruptcy. From that time till today, this government has made some achievements with your support, cooperation, and blessings and today the thing that matters most is that people worldwide are assured that India enjoys political stability, social progress and economic refinement. There is no doubt about this today in anybody's mind. This has been a great achievement of my government as well as yours. I also congratulate you on this. We have endeavored very hard to achieve all this.

You also know that we have overcome the signs of unrest in different parts of our country. In fact, the unrest had been simmering in many parts for many years. The unrest in Punjab, Assam, Bodo land or wherever it existed for many years has been brought under control. I do not want to go into details as this has been said many times before and you were aware of it and had felt its effects.

I feel that the biggest problem confronting us today is that of Jammu and Kashmir. Actually, it is not a problem because it has been created artificially. [sentence as heard] There has been unrest there for the last four to five years. A picture of violence and terrorism being exported by Pakistan was witnessed by you yesterday. You have seen the acts of mercilessness and barbarity being perpetrated by terrorists there and the extent to which terrorism has spread there.

I want to tell you that in reality there is no such thing as the Kashmir problem. The fact is that Jammu and Kashmir is an indivisible part of India and nobody can separate it from us or snatch it from us. The issue is that of Pakistan's forceful occupation of some parts [of Kashmir]. Pakistan has no right on it. Pakistan cannot make any claim on it from any perspective. However, because it is a neighboring country, it is possible for them to train, fund, and arm the people and send them here to continue the agitation. Why are they doing this? It is beyond everybody's comprehension. Today, the whole world is beginning to realize what the motive is behind Pakistan's actions in Kashmir. Now the world understands who is responsible for whatever is happening in Kashmir. Pakistan is directly responsible for all the happenings.

They will find us ready to respond to any proposal to sit down and talk to establish good relations. They should stop all their actions and misdeeds and hold talks. If any matter is raised or if any difference emerges, we are always ready to resolve them. When the present Pakistan prime minister assumed office, I sent her a letter on the same day saying let us sit down and talk on the basis of the Simla Agreement. Earlier, we had sent them six non-papers [preceding word in English]. These are called non-papers because we convey our stand through them without attaching any official importance. That is why they are called non-papers. We sent them six non-papers and each one contained issues that required close attention and resolution and are to be dealt with by us. There was, however, no response. On the contrary, we were given two non-papers that imposed impossible conditions. We tell them not to put any conditions. We will talk unconditionally. But they have created conditions which cannot be acceptable to us. We cannot touch them and cannot even think about them. It means that they never wanted to hold talks. They expressed their unwillingness by putting impossible [preceding word in English] conditions in their non-papers. This is the situation that exists today.

I believe that even now if this export of terrorism is stopped and the habit that they have developed in spreading propaganda about Kashmir at the meetings wherever they are held is given up — because this has not brought them any dividends and nobody has taken notice of it — then we can hold talks and establish very good relations like we enjoy with all our neighbors and other countries of the world. The ball is in their court. I will only like to say that in the present circumstances they should rethink. They should realize that whatever they did or tried for 40 years has not brought them any results. It only widened the gap between us. We have to bridge this gap. This is the only path left for them and we will always be ready for that, we will always respond to it provided they give up their actions.

Meanwhile, new problems are being raised and new questions are being asked in our country. There was a time when some people were being incited in the name of race and religion. Their feelings were aroused as a political exigency. I believed that this attitude will possibly change following our launching of development work on a very large scale. In fact, to some extent there has been a change in perception, but it appears that efforts are again being made to exploit the people's feelings. I want to state very politely that the efforts to mix religion and politics will never succeed. Otherwise, both religion and politics will lose their essence and both will be corrupted. We should reconsider this and try to raise the issues of our livelihood, nation, nationalism and political culture and find solutions to them. We should not exploit religion. Both religion and politics have their own places.

Another question has been raised that relates to [bringing in uniformity] the personal law. I want to tell you that there is nothing new in it. When our constitution was being written, the same question was raised in the Constituent Assembly and Dr. Ambedkar, who has the distinction of being called the father of our constitution, had himself said that we only want to enshrine this right of personal law, which did not mean that all personal laws would be made uniform. There are many hurdles in bringing about uniformity in personal laws. This does not mean that we do not respect the Constitution. We respect the Constitution, but there are difficulties that face us on this issue. The experience of the last 40 years tells us how difficult it is to bring about such a change. Instead of taking up these issues, we should fix our priorities and decide which areas need to be focussed upon and which issues need our attention. We should not lose sight of our objective. I understand that many communities in our society — Hindus, Muslims, Parsis, Christians and others — have their own personal laws. It is not that easy to bring about uniformity in their personal laws. Actually, uniform means making all of them look alike. This means the imposition of one community's laws on another and vice versa, or repealing the laws of both communities and imposing a new third law on them. Only then can it be called uniform, not otherwise. I want to tell you that it is very difficult to bring about this change. We should not get involved in this. Regarding what the future holds for us, we cannot now speak. However, it is not now wise for us to take up this issue. Again, a code cannot be introduced against the will of any section or community that is going to be affected by such a code. We have a maxim [Rao reads out the maxim in Sanskrit] that means: Even the best of actions that affects or is against the will of someone should not be carried out and should not be practiced. This is a great lesson for us from ancient times. That is why I want to tell you that we will now not interfere in this matter. Not only now, but for years — a long time to come — we will not be able to fully bring about this change. I find it inappropriate to even think about it today.

You know our efforts regarding Kashmir. We are also trying to deal with the simmering unrest in other areas such as the northeast, and I believe that the people there are also fed up with violence. Talks are being held with them and they are now thinking of joining the national mainstream. I hope that this problem will also be overcome very soon.

Now, I turn briefly to economic aspects, of which you are well aware. Occasionally, there have been attempts to incite the people by telling them something else. Therefore, I would like to view things in perspective [preceding word in English]. In 1991, we were on a brink of insolvency. In 1991 we thought that the country would become completely bankrupt. We did not have any funds, not even enough funds to import commodities such as kerosene. The foreign exchange reserves dwindled sharply. From that situation, we have managed to get along with great difficulty. And today we can say that in these four years we have made very great progress. In 1991 we did not even have 25 billion [rupees], but today we have a foreign exchange reserve of 600 billion. Today, on account of this, we have not the slightest difficulty in importing anything.

We liberated industries. We liberated them from [the system of] permits and licenses that had entangled them and with a continuation of which there would have been no progress. The regime of permits and licenses has largely come to an end. Today, except for a few industries that are linked to our defense and so on, there is no need for things like licenses in any industry. And they [industries] are functioning. And you will be glad to hear whatever progress has been achieved has been achieved within the last two and a half to three years — for during the first year no one wanted to come here, nor could we invite them; we were simply observing them and trying to convince them that our policy had changed, but no one believed us at all. I think that if I place the statistic before you that a 680 billion [rupees] investment — an investment of 680 billion — has been made here, you will be satisfied. And in our social sector also, we have permitted an investment of about 250 billion. So, in all, our industries are working in full swing today and they are further developing.

What are we doing with our money? With our money we have launched all manner of programs for the poor — tacking all aspects of eradicating poverty. You see, in 1991 we could not do anything because, we did not have the funds. Since 1992, we have been launching projects and all these projects are linked to the poor — that is, linked to poverty eradication programs. On 1 January 1992, I inaugurated a public distribution system in Barmer, a district in Rajasthan. The objective was to concentrate on 1,700 to 1,800 blocks in our country — maybe hilly regions, or desert areas, or tribal areas, or any such places where extremely poor people live. We formulated a major comprehensive scheme to send food materials to those areas and I did [inaugurate] it on 1 January 1992.

At the same time, we launched another program. The tools of artisans like carpenters, goldsmiths, and blacksmiths living in our villages are very old, which reduce their productivity and hamper their competitiveness. Therefore, we launched a very big program to [give them] the latest tools and implements as well as to repair them. About 250,000 of our artisans have already been provided with implements, and this year, we are going to provide implements to 200,000 more artisans. So it means that the implements of about 450,000 to 500,000 of our artisans working in villages will be made serviceable and modernized, increasing their productivity. Now, they need not leave their villages and migrate to cities. And we assume that several people, who would have gone to the cities, have settled in the villages now; their productivity has increased there and their income is increasing.

Then in 1993, we launched the women's development program. Along with this, we also commenced a comprehensive employment program in each village. When there is no employment in a village, there are no farming activities, and when there is drought, people migrate to cities. To prevent this, we formulated a scheme to provide at least 100 days of employment for them, and it is proceeding very well. And wherever this scheme is needed, it is being implemented. I would like to tell you that it has yielded very goods results. So, we started in 1992 [as heard]. In 1993, two or three [programs] were launched under the Prime Minister's Employment Program for our youths. In 1993, we confined it to cities only. In 1994, we took it to the villages. So the intention of telling you all this is to show that we have spent all our government funds on poor people. We have allotted funds for all poverty eradication programs and have been allotting them continuously from 1992 onwards. And whatever our government programs may be, they are all of this type only. We have never given any money to the rich. We brought in their money and got it invested here in industries. We have not given any money to them. And the money we saved because of their coming we have spent on poor people. This year, we have taken up programs for the poor on a massive scale. Our old programs and the new ones are interlinked.

First of all, we have taken steps to provide a single meal to children in our primary schools. Earlier, in the whole country, this [scheme] had been taken up by some states and not by others; it had been discontinued in some states — discontinued after being implemented for only a few days. It has been going on like this. We have decided [to implement it] because, we have no shortage of food grain today. We have about 35 million tons of food grain. We will allot food grain from this [food reserve]. And we are making efforts to give nutritious food to our children. The scheme formulated for this purpose is going to be implemented from today. All these four schemes, which we have launched today, are going to be implemented from this very day. I have already spoken about this. I would like to tell you briefly that these programs have been taken up by the Central government for the first time.

Another thing is that in our country, if a senior earning member of a family living below the poverty line — poor people — dies, the family becomes completely helpless. In such a case, we will provide 5,000 rupees to the family, if that person dies a natural death — as is generally the case — but, if that person dies in an accident, then 10,000 rupees will be given. This responsibility is also being borne by the central government for the first time.

And the maternity assistance program is also another example. Among the poor, when a women gives birth to a child, there is no one to look after her and she does not have anything for medical treatment. Therefore, we would like to give assistance to them as well. And this is another program.

And then there is the most important and novel thing. Have you ever heard of the poorest of the poor being able to insure his life? You will never have heard of this because it has never happened before. Everywhere extensive insurance coverage has been made available, but insurance for those living below the poverty line has never been offered and nobody has insured them. We are taking up this mammoth program on behalf of the central government. We would like to make two types of insurance coverage available. One is that kind of insurance that the people of the villages who have something to eat and drink want to have. And another is for extremely poor people, wherein they have to contribute half the amount and will get the remaining half with the help of the central government and the state government. It is possible that insurance for all the people can be made available. We are arranging it on the basis of group insurance [scheme]. It does not apply to individuals. A unit has been formed with a village or block. People can get insured there. If somebody dies in the group, he will get 5,000 rupees. This insurance program is a new scheme. You see, how for the first time the central government is trying to reach out to the very last poor person.

After that, last year we started a program to reduce and later eliminate the practice of child labor, where children are forced to work due to poverty. The program is specifically aimed at removing children from hazardous industries that affect their health very quickly. Work has been continuing on that program on a massive scale for the last one year and is progressing very well. In this manner, I like to tell you that we have been constantly implementing programs for the poor masses and have been adding some new dimensions to them every year. These programs are not for a limited period of time, they are for ever. None of these programs — whether it was started in 1991, 1992, or this year — will be stopped after a couple of years. When the central government takes up any program, it continues for ever. There is no doubt about that. I would like to assure you that we have launched these programs after giving them considerable thought. The work which we could not do in 1991 we began in 1992, and whatever we failed to do in 1992 we launched in 1993. In this manner, we have been doing things keeping in mind the amount of funds available to us and the scope and the extent of the work which could be done. It is because of this that the children's meal program — which we are starting today — cannot be implemented nationwide at once. We do not have adequate funds to implement it all over the country at the same time. We want to complete this program in three years. This year, we have chosen the poor areas in 2,500 blocks which have the largest concentration of poor people. In the first phase, we have started this program mainly for poor children and in the next two years we intend to cover the entire country. However, God willing, we may complete this work in only one year instead of the two years we now plan on. There is also the possibility that the work may be completed next year in 1996. What I intend to say here is that we have done only what we could do. Only that part of the program which we thought we would be able to manage has been started. So, I say that we are executing programs after giving them considerable thought and we are moving forward. The benefits which the people derive from these programs are not hidden from anyone. The benefits have become visible to you.

You know that exports play a major role in the economic program we have initiated. Previously, we used to export raw materials — rice, paddy, or wheat — but today we do not export raw materials at all. Most of our exports include machinery and value-added goods produced here and which can compete with goods manufactured by other countries in all markets and in all countries. Our goods have proved to be better than those produced elsewhere in the world. This is the characteristic feature of our exports. Our exports have increased considerably. We have registered an increase of 20 percent in exports in one year. This is no mean achievement. For a backward country like India, it is a major one. We have also attracted investment. Many people have raised slogans that all this has been done for the well-to-do people. I want to tell you that this is totally wrong. Eighty percent of the capital investment is for things we need very much. These are called infrastructure such as power, petroleum, and steel. These things meet the basic requirements of our industries. Since the investment has been in our basic industries, it is absolutely wrong to say that this has been done to promote consumerism. I would like to tell you that it is wrong to think like that, because we possess all the statistics in this regard.

You will be surprised to know that we are the second largest producer of milk in the world. Only the United States produces more milk than us. No other country besides the U.S. produces as much milk as we do. I was also very much gratified to hear this, because I had not thought that our country could make such unprecedented progress in milk production within a span of three to four years; but this is true and this has happened. Aside from this, we have increased the prices for goods produced by farmers. We have made arrangements for fertilizers for farmers. It is true that the farmers still have some grievances. They want something more. We are thinking about the recent hike in the prices of fertilizers, and if anything further needs to be done after negotiations with the farmers, we will do it. There is no need to worry about that. However, the achievements of our farmers can be considered a miracle, for which I congratulate them and like to tell them that they should continue moving forward and that we will continue to give them whatever assistance they require. There is no doubt about that.

Now, the gist of the programs I presented before you for the current year is that whatever programs we like to implement for social development, and social welfare we do them on a very large scale. This year we are spending 180 billion rupees on rural development and social services against 80 billion rupees in 1991. All these programs are being implemented on a very large scale. The money we are spending for these programs is designed to reach every village of the country, to increase job opportunities for the rural people, and to raise their standard of living. I do not say that whatever that needed to be done has been done. Nobody will be able to say so. Nevertheless, the work will go on constantly and all the money we will have, we will save from industrialization, will be spent on this massive program that is being implemented nationwide. This will be our future policy as well. I have already stated this, but reiterate them here because attempts have been made to create misunderstandings about them. No one should think that our program is different from the one which I have presented to you.

Of course, we need to remain vigilant. We need to remain vigilant on our borders. We will not allow any slackening in the research program currently being undertaken in our country. We will continue with that program. We also want to greatly improve the standard of the institutions for higher education — institutions like the Indian Institute of Technology etc., whose graduates can find jobs anywhere in the world and where people from abroad come to hire graduates — because their machinery have become obsolete and they need to be modernized. We are doing that. Our largest program relates to schools. We want to eliminate illiteracy from this country. It has been said that a large number of people will become illiterate in India by the end of this century. The number of Indian illiterates will be higher than that in any other country in the world. This makes us bow our heads in shame. We feel ashamed to think that we are going to come to such a sorry pass. Therefore, we have decided — I have already announced it — to spend 6 percent of our national income during the next five-year plan on education. This was mentioned in the Indian Government's policy some 30 years ago, but we could not do so for the last 30 years because of various reasons. Today we are in a position to do so. From the ninth five- year plan onward, we will be in a position to make such a large- scale expenditure on education in this very large country. We are determined to do so. There may be some leakages somewhere in several employment schemes. I agree that some mistakes may have been committed in some things, but we should try to rectify them and should not try to blow things out of proportion and create a sense of despair among the people. We should all assist in this program. That is what I expect and request from you.

Now I turn to the future. You know that there are a large number of developing countries in our world, but there are many nations which do not want to remain as developing countries for ever. They are striving hard to become developed countries. There are several countries in our neighborhood — in Southeast Asia and other places — which have decided and are determined to become developed ones in the next 25 years and to retrieve themselves from the ranks of the developing countries and to sit alongside the developed nations. You have to consider what is lacking in India. We have no dearth of resources. We do not lack skilled manpower, nor is there any lack of resolve on our part. Therefore, I think that our country can also join the ranks of developed countries within 25 to 30 years. We possess this potential, but the only condition is that we should not waste our energy on useless things. We should devote our energies to attaining our collective goal, and if we persevere in our efforts, we will succeed in achieving our objective. I can say only this much about the future: that since ours is a very large country, we all need to devote ourselves to this task. If we move forward in a determined manner, then we can certainly attain our goal, as has been in the case of other countries; and there will be no impediment in our way. I can see this happening in the future. There is no country in the world that does not accept this fact, that does not agree with what I am saying now. All have recognized our potential and that is why they are ready to come and invest here and start joint ventures with us, and are ready to play whatever role they can and make whatever contribution they can to our development. We do not lack anything today. What we need is the firm resolve and devotion to achieve our goal. If we possess both these things, then we will have no problem at all. This is what I want to tell you.

The programs for the current year, whose launch I announced just now, are being implemented from today. There is a program that I intend to start from 20 August — the birthday of the late Rajiv Gandhi — which is the Indira Women's Scheme. It is a program which was diligently prepared by Rajiv Gandhi himself, and that is why we want to start this from the date of his birth. We have taken up some 200 blocks where this very extensive program devoted solely to women will be implemented. The program will become operative from 20 August. There are several other things that I want to present before you. This is an historic place, from where Bahadur Shah Zafar declared war against the British Government. This is the place where the members of the Indian National Army [INA], who had fought the war along with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, were kept and prosecuted. You might recall that after a long time, I do not know after how many years, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru stood as a lawyer for the INA men and defended them. This is a place full of such history. We are building a museum at this place — where the INA men were prosecuted — and that museum will open on 2 October, marking the 125th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. The museum exhibits will make the people clearly see and realize what type of work these patriots did. We are also celebrating the birth centenary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. One of our other prominent leaders, who stayed outside the country and did a lot to create an atmosphere in favor of the independence of the country, is V.K. Krishna Menon. We want to celebrate his birth centenary also. So we are preparing plans to celebrate their birth centenaries and to revive their memories in our minds. I hope that the museum that will be opened in this [Red Fort] complex will remind the next generations of those great and valiant leaders and patriots. These are the programs that will bring back to us the memories of our past history.

Now I want to tell you briefly about our foreign policy. During the last four years, our foreign policy has been very successful. It has been so in the past, from the time of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Indira Gandhi added more feathers and luster to Nehru's policy and her son Rajiv Gandhi carried it forward. Now, we are not only maintaining that policy but have also added some new dimensions to it. Now the Cold War has ended. With the end of the Cold War under favorable conditions, a new atmosphere has been created in the entire world. In this atmosphere, it is both easy and difficult to maintain friendship with all, because there is no confrontation in this atmosphere. We have to build good relationships with all, while fully protecting our national interests and without allowing any slackness in this regard. This is a fairly difficult task, but we have been performing this efficiently for the last four years. We have further improved our relations with those states and countries with which we have already had good relationships. We have improved our relations with those countries with which we did not have particularly good relationships. Today I can say that our country's relations with all countries are cordial and sound and we are receiving their cooperation as well as sympathy. We have apprised them of all our problems, including Kashmir, and they have become fully aware of our policies on all problems, and they also appreciate and admire them. It is a good sign for us that we have come to enjoy this kind of relationship with them. It augurs well for our development. There will be no impediments in the way of our development. There may be rivalry and competition with each other in the field of trade. This scenario has already become visible to us. There are several countries that are wrangling with each other, and even if there is no full-fledged confrontation between them, some kind of tension exists between them. In this atmosphere of tension, India has to carve out a path for itself; and while doing this, we do not have to involve ourselves in this tension. We do not have to become the victim of this tension. This is tantamount to walking on the most hazardous path and we have been moving and intend to move in the same fashion. I assure you that India's foreign policy will fully protect the country's interests and we will resolutely play the role India has to play in the changing global scenario. There is no doubt about that. I see the illustration of this everywhere. Whenever I visit a foreign country, I get the full picture of what the people think about India, what its potentials are. I have taken much of your time, but it was essential to place these details before you. You are aware of several of these programs. You have heard about and seen several of these schemes, but when we talk of them individually, we do not get an overall picture of them. That is why I considered it my duty to place before you the details of what has happened in the last four years and that is what I have done here. I am present before you for the fifth time today and I ask you to assess the records of our achievements and form your opinion about this government in the light of those records. I have no doubt that this government's overall achievements will be appreciated and all countrymen will bless us for this. As for the future, I shall say this: that your future is in your own hands. I don't have to say anything about that. I have already presented before you briefly what I had to say. I thank you for lending your ears to me. Now I invite you all to raise our cherished slogan of Jai Hind [Hail India]. Jai Hind, Jai Hind, Jai Hind. [crowd repeats the slogan all three times] Thank you.

Pakistan TV Reports on Independence Day in Kashmir

BK1508135295 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, India's Independence Day today was observed as a black day despite curfew in Srinagar and strict security measures at other places. PTV special correspondent Ghulam Nabi Khayal reports from Srinagar:

[Begin Gulam Nabi Khayal recording] With India's Independence Day observed as black day, the valley of Kashmir presented a deserted look today. Groups of people set on fire copies of Indian Constitution and the Indian tricolor. At some places, effigies of Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao were also burned. A total blackout is being observed all over this evening.

The call for today's strike was given by All Parties Hurriyat Conference besides other organizations of fighters.

Government imposed undeclared curfew and handed over Srinagar city to armed forces to prevent any attempt on the life of Governor Krishna Rao at a function here. He had a miraculous escape this year at Jammu at a similar function where as explosion killed six people on the spot. The governor spoke in the main stadium, which had been cordoned off by about 5,000 troopers. He claimed to have assembly elections in Kashmir within a two month's time. No civilians participated in the function. [end recording]

A BBC report also said India's Independence Day was observed by Kashmiris by flying black flags and staying at home.

Meanwhile, brutal siege and search operations by Indian occupation forces continue all across the held valley. Innocent people were subjected to torture and harassment and many of them were rounded up. Twelve Indian soldiers, including an officer, were killed in clashes with mojahedin at two different places. Six soldiers were killed by mojahedin when they were returning to their barracks after ruthlessly torturing people in siege and search operation at Athmokam. Mojahedin gunned down six more soldiers at Bandipura and suffered eight casualties in these clashes.

And in Jammu, the winter capital of the valley, at least 10 people were wounded today when a bomb exploded in a hotel. This was the third bomb blast in two weeks. Police cordoned off the area and were searching for more explosives. The authorities have tightened security in the state in anticipation of possible attacks by mojahedin. Fifteen people were killed last week following two explosions in Jammu.

Iran

Article Views U.S. Influence on Tehran-Moscow Ties

NC1508133095 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 8 Aug 95 p 12

[Second and last part of commentary by Ruzbeh Bu ol-Hari: "The U.S. Policy of Blockading Iran and Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States has not had any success as far as Iran is concerned. For example, no country except Israel has joined the U.S. embargo against Iran. Also, the U.S. policy of intensifying its campaign against Iran has led to closer and expanding relations between Tehran and Moscow. This has caused concern in the United States over the Russian presence, especially militarily, in the Persian Gulf. Thus, the United States is striving to contain and restrict these two countries within the framework of "the dual blockade policy against Iran and Russia."

To do this, U.S. policy in the region is directed at two geographically strategic areas:

1. Central Asia and the Caucasus: Since it declared its independence in 1991, this region has been the focus of U.S. attention. This is because it is endowed with natural

resources such as oil, gas, gold, and uranium. There is also a fear of Iranian influence (in the region from a historical, cultural, and geographic point of view).

Other reasons for U.S. interest in this area are: these countries' proximity to the PRC's Muslim areas, a U.S. need to control Russia and its boundaries, and that there is a model to encourage the republics and autonomous areas of the Russian Federation to declare independence from Moscow. The United States does not want relations between Moscow and the Central Asian countries and the Caucasus to revive. U.S. economic investment, social and economic relations with Turkey, and NATO's Partnership for Peace program are U.S. measures in this regard. Due to Moscow's waning power since the break up of the Soviet Union, these issues preoccupied the Russians and they were unable to attend to the problems in their contiguous republics.

As was expected, countries such as Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan adopted the path of rapproachment with the United States. Establishing a NATO base was proposed in Kyrgyzstan. This trend also engulfed Armenia and despite opposition by political groups and the public, its leadership has moved toward the path of convergence with Turkey and Azerbaijan as well as toward other Western policies in the region.

On the other hand, one should not ignore Turkey's role in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Powerful circles in Ankara which follow the concept of Pan-Turkism [preceding word in English] are envisioning a federation of Turkic-speaking countries stretching from the Mediterranean to Xinjiang. The United States does not favor this idea but sees it as an alternative solution for the future. However, one should not forget that Pan-Turkism has proponents and supporters throughout the region, including in Azerbaijan.

2. The Persian Gulf: When Western colonialists entered the Persian Gulf in the 15th and 16th centuries, an era of trouble and exploitation began in these countries. Since then, the Persian Gulf, which is on the route to India and which has vast oil resources, has gained the attention of the bigger countries.

Efforts are being made to destabilize the Persian Gulf and increase the dependence of the Arab countries on Washington with the goal of exerting pressure on Iran. And, after two wars in the region, the Persian Gulf is experiencing a foreign military presence, especially a U.S. presence, including military bases in most of the Arab countries in the region

In this context, one may refer to the opposition in the Arab countries in the region—which has U.S. approval—to any multilateral security arrangements in which Iran and Iraq are included. Simultaneously, on the one hand we have the UAE's territorial claims against Iran, which could result in artificial polarization in the region. On the other hand, countering Russia's influence in the Persian Gulf is on the agenda of U.S. politicians. One should stress that Washington has accepted Russia's regional presence in principle.

The United States, using deceptive promises of economic deals with Arab countries, is trying to drive a wedge between Moscow and Tehran. This is supported by the pro-Western factions in Russia, including the party of Yegor Geydar.

Moscow has not fallen for these small scale deals. Russia's nationalistic and communist forces are concerned with safeguarding the country's national security resources. They believe preserving and broadening relations with Iran, which is situated on the northern shores of the Persian Gulf, is to Russia's benefit. This has doubled Iran's importance for Russia.

The United States is seeking participation by Eastern European countries and former Soviet republics in the Partnership for Peace Program, as well as NATO membership for the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, and Hungary. It wants to counter Moscow's diplomacy west of Russia and foil its intended presence in the Middle East, particularly in the Persian Gulf. To achieve this, Washington's agenda includes disrupting relations between certain countries. Turkey and its neighbor Iran are an example. Claims of Iranian support for the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] being spread in Turkey are U.S. actions toward this end.

It appears the trend of Tehran-Moscow cooperation will continue, unless political upheaval in Russia brings to power a pro-Western faction. This cooperation can thwart U.S. domination in the Persian Gulf, and ultimately in the Middle East. The insistence of Moscow officials that Russia will not abandon the Persian Gulf is testimony to the truth of this statement.

Radio Views Impact of Iraqi Defections on Region

LD1608133595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0951 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the docking of a U.S. warship at the port of Haifa, 3,000 U.S. troops have entered Jordan for joint military maneuvers with Amman. In the meantime, while the Jordanian foreign minister is visiting Saudi Arabia, King Husayn has, for the first time since the defection of two senior Iraqi army commanders to Jordan, spoken of the incident as an event which will herald a new era for Iraq.

It was announced in Jordan last week that General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the brain behind Iraq's advanced weapons program, and his brother Saddam Kamil, a senior officer of the presidential guard, and their wives — that is, Saddam Husayn's daughters — had been granted political asylum. Since the defection of these people to Amman, the region has been facing serious tensions and Jordan has been transformed into the new center of political developments.

With the revelation of new details about the incident, it has now become clear that the United States and Jordan knew beforehand about the developments in Iraq and were guiding these developments. It may be that, by sending his foreign minister to Riyadh, King Husayn is trying both to improve his ties with Saudi leaders and to inform them of further details about the recent developments in Iraq.

Saudi Arabia is one of the countries which considers the recent incidents to be to the advantage of its regional policies. Riyadh has never forgotten Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and Baghdad's threat to Saudi Arabia's borders and has consistently worried about a possible regaining of power by Saddam Husayn.

According to political analysts, King Husayn's remarks and the recent political-military developments in the region are a clear indication of changing equations and of the entry of the region into a new period of possible changes. By raising the possibility of an attack by Baghdad against Jordan, Washington is trying to seize the initiative in order to direct events in the way it wishes and to use this event, like all other events, to its own advantage.

According to political observers, although the behavior of Iraqi leaders is not very predictable, nevertheless, the disturbance that has occurred in Baghdad's pillars of government has been such that it seems unlikely that they will be prepared to take on the danger arising from any new adventurism. These analysts, therefore, believe that the recent intense diplomatic activities and the increased military presence of the United States in the region is — more than a preventative measure — a kind of preparation for interference in possible future events.

Brunei Official Discusses Ties With Vice President

LD1408122995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brunei's deputy foreign minister, who is visiting Tehran, met today with First Vice President Hasan Habibi to brief him on the 28th Association of South East Asian Nations [ASEAN] ministerial session held recently in Brunei. He also said that his country is interested in expanding bilateral cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and expressed hope that, with the formation of the first joint commission for cooperation between the two countries, relations will enter a new stage.

Mr. Habibi welcomed the expansion of bilateral relations and said: Cooperation between the Economic Cooperation Organization and ASEAN, which are two important economic cooperation organizations in east and west Asia, will contribute effectively to peace and stability in Asia and to strengthening the positions of member countries.

Says 'Optimistic' About Expanding Ties

LD1408164395 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 14 (IRNA) — Iran welcomes sound foreign investment, especially by Muslim countries, in its development projects, Mines and Metals Minister Hoseyn Mahluji told Bruneian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali here today.

He added that such investments could secure the interests of the parties concerned and serve as a step towards futher unity among Muslims.

Mahluji told the visitor that Iran produces over 80 percent of the raw meterals required by its steel industry and has the technology for building and puting into operation steel and subsidiary plants.

He expressed hope that Iran's copper and aluminium output would reach 220,000 tons and 330,000 tons respectively by the end of the second five-year economic development plan (1995-2000).

Mohamed Ali who arrived here on Saturday [12 August] said the goal behind his visit was to remove obstacles which hindered the expansion of Tehran-Bandar Seri Begawan ties.

He was optimistic that the two countries' officials could remove the problems, which were mainly of an executive nature.

Khamene'i Speeches Mark Birth Anniversary of Prophet

Dicusses 'Ethical Goals' of Islam

LD1408115495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 14 Aug 95

[Address by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, marking the birth anniversary of the Prophet Mohammad; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I congratulate all of you gentlemen and all the people of Iran on the occasion of this joyous anniversary, which relates both to the blessed Prophet of Islam — the Holy Mohammad — God's peace be upon him and his scion, and to the holy Imam [Ja'far] Sadeq — God's peace be upon him.

What is important is that we, who are continuing the path of those lofty figures, or who claim to be doing so and are identified to be doing so by the people of this world, should try to create and revive — even if weakly — the various dimensions of the personalities of those divine and great figures, in our own beings. It is not enough for the strugglers in the path of God and supporters of the sovereignty of Islam to think only about building the Islamic society and system, even though this is a lofty duty and a great obligation — perhaps the most fundamental obligation for a pious Muslim. Alongside the struggle to establish the Islamic system, to bring it into fruition and turn it into a victory, another struggle, perhaps a harder one, is needed to enable us to transform and create a revolution in our hearts and minds. And if we talk about the personalities of the guardians of religion — whether it is about the blessed Prophet, or the immaculate imams or the holy Fatimah and holy Zaynab — God's peace be upon them — it is mainly a testimony to this second point.

The fact is that today, the Islamic Republic needs us — us, the officials, in the first instance — and next, the people, so as move toward the ethical goals of Islam and to try and revive them. Of course, it is true that if we had not gone through a change in our consciousness, the revolution would not have succeeded. The mere victory of the revolution, the meaning and reason behind it, is that people's hearts and minds were transformed. The revolution would not have succeeded without this. But, the continuation of the revolution, the continuation of the victories and steadfastness in this path, without deviation, which is more important than anything else, makes it necessary for us to bring about a change in our existence, in our behavior and our spirit.

During all these past years I have always thought that an important part of our victories was due to the spiritual qualities of Khomeyni's personality. This means that that great figure was not only an outstanding individual — truly, all those who knew him will admit to this — but also an outstanding individual who was disciplined, self-made, and pious. He was always like this. But we felt that even during the period of the revolution, he was not complacent but was continuously progressing, moving and transforming his inner-self, just like God's saints, just like the holy presence of the Prophet and the imams, who were all in a continuous state of progress, change and transformation to their last breaths. [passage omitted]

That is how a pious person is. He develops and makes progress with every passing moment. That is exactly how the imam was. You could feel it, especially on special occasions. During the month of Ramadan, for example, when he usually did not have any meetings or appointments and was able to be by himself — when one met him after the month of Ramadan it was evident that he had become more luminous, more spiritual. Undoubtedly, many of the successes achieved by this revolution and this nation were due to that luminous, sparkling focal point.

Of course, much of these successes were tied to the sincerity, loyalty, selflessness and luminosity which exists in every single individual in our country, especially our youth, our combatants. [passage omitted]

Each and every one of us must try to create sincerity and luminosity within ourselves. This is our lesson for today; the lesson arising from the birth anniversary of the Prophet. Without it, we cannot carry this heavy burden. The heavy burden of the Islamic revolution cannot be compared with any other burden or responsibility. Keeping and advancing the revolution in a healthy state is truly a heavy responsibility.

God be praised, during these difficult years and during various trials and tribulations, this nation has borne and carried this burden forward admirably. Our revolution is not like other revolutions and our government is not like other governments. [Koranic verse omitted]

World policies [as heard] and powers are mistaken in thinking that they can treat the Islamic Republic like other countries and governments which are based on material power and superficial validity; that they can drive it out of the field with threats, with obstacles, with pressure, and so on. No, this was their big mistake that they, the enemy, was unable to understand this spirituality, this spirit of devotion to God in our people and in our revolution.

If this spirit of piety and devotion to God is present, there will be no arguments or disputes; there will be none of these minor, shallow and, of course, unimportant differences — in my opinion, they are not important enough to be given much attention. Nevertheless, the greater our unity and solidarity in all respects, the more beautiful and splendid things will be; the more disappointing for the enemy and the more hope-inspiring for friends.

I pray to Exalted God that, on this auspicious occasion and on these two blessed birth anniversaries, He will bestow his mercy and blessings on our dear nation and on every single one of our selfless people, and that He will also grant our officials the ability, the spiritual ability, strength and resolve, as well as practical strength, that they may work in a way worthy of this nation. We thank God that, today, the government machinery responsible to the people and responsible to God, and the country's managers are working with sincerity and honesty. This is the way it has always been, God be praised. In the past, too, in the Islamic Republic, everyone worked with sincerity and honesty.

God be praised, the situation is good. There is solidarity. The nation is on the stage with a good morale. We, too, must pray to God for assistance and strength, do our work, carry our heavy burdens, untie knots and, God willing, continue to tread the stormy and turbulent path of the revolution as before. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Makes Opening Remarks

LD1508193595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1009 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Begin recording] [Announcer] Dear listeners, just as you were informed in the news, on the auspicious birthday anniversary the Light of Truth — the gracious Prophet of Islam, the Holy Mohammad — God's peace and benedictions be upon him and his scion — and the birth of the source of knowledge and wisdom, the holy Imam Ja'far Sadeq [sixth Shiite imam] — peace be upon him — this morning, the chiefs of the three branches of government, senior political and military officials, servers of the Islamic system, and foreign guests participating in the Islamic Unity Conference were received at the Imam Khomeyni prayer center [Jamaran in Tehran], by his eminence Ayatollah 'Ali Akbar Khamene'i, eminent leader of the Islamic revolution.

First, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, congratulated the esteemed leader on the occasion of this joyous feast, during the course of brief remarks. We draw your attention to the broadcast of the meeting. Good day and God bless. [passage omitted]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

Fortunately, we stand proudly before the Prophet of Islam, the Koran, and this ummah, and the banner that the holy Prophet raised 1,400 years ago to guide humanity and confront tyranny and deviation. Today, under that banner and in defense of the aspirations of that lofty person, we have formulated our policies in this birthplace of the revolution and the base of Islam and the lofty thoughts of the Imam Sadeq. We are happy that with God's help we have been able to take long strides along this path. Today, we are seeing the impact of the powerful presence of Islam, through Iran, and through the revolution's message all over the world. This is in spite of the pressure exerted by the United States to isolate and confine this center of radiation of divine light — the essence of the message of Islam — both in this world and the next.

We see that all of Iran's 1.6 million km-stretch of land is at the continuous service of reconstruction and development in the shape of an active workshop. We see that the masses have turned their attention to the teachings and culture of Islam. For the first time, a country is endeavoring to mobilize all its resources to strengthen Islamic teachings and culture. We also see that in our world policy the most powerful agent of anti-Islamic teaching has not succeeded in isolating us. On the contrary, it is we who have succeeded in isolating it. We also see that at the international level — in all the fields such as science, literature, arts, sports, important issues in the world — our youth are demonstrating the power of Islam in the United States, Locarno, Canada, China, and Australia. In all these places we have seen a demonstration of the mental, scientific, physical and spiritual power of Islamic forces. These are signs of the success and strength of a system. I congratulate our nation who have achieved these successes through their heroic deeds and their support. I congratulate the lofty spirit of our departed Imam [Khomeyni] to whom we owe all these things; I congratulate your eminence who is carrying the responsibility of leading this nation so well, and I congratulate the dear families of our self-sacrificers. [passage omitted]

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I, too, would like to express my greetings and felicitations on this auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of his holiness the Prophet, peace be upon him and his scion, and of Imam Ja'far Sadeq, peace be upon him, to all the Muslims of the world, to the great

Iranian nation, to you dear guests, to you honorable participants, to the country's officials and, especially, to former combatants and their families. [passage omitted]

I want to say to you dear brothers and dear and honorable sisters: Today, unity is a definite necessity for Muslims. Today, the enemy of Muslims and Islam has two particular features, which it did not have in the course of past history. First, it — the enemy of Islam — is extremely well equipped with material resources, policies, propaganda, with a variety of instruments for making impacts, having influence and inflicting blows. Who is the enemy of Islam? The battlefront of arrogance, be it Zionism, the United States, oil companies, mercenary pens [authors] and intellectuals who work for them throughout the world. They are well equipped. At no other time has the front opposed to Islam been so equipped with such a variety of instruments. That is one particular feature.

The other particular feature is that this well equipped front is extremely sensitive today to the threat posed to it by Islam and the Islamic awakening. This sensitivity arises from the fact that it can see that Islam can go beyond a [mere] ethical injunction and can present itself as an idea that brings a system of government into existence. They can see that. They saw that Islam was able to bring about a revolution. They saw that Islam was able to bring about a lasting and strong system. They saw that Islam was able to bring about self-awareness in a nation, to raise it from a spiritual abyss to steadfastness, self-reliance, and reliance on religion. [passage omitted]

The strength of Islam reveals itself. They [enemies] saw that in the world of Islam any group that seeks to reform its environment, its society, and its country turns to Islam. In the past, before the victory of Islam in Iran, groups that wanted to claim reform as their slogan in various countries would turn to Marxism or to radical types of nationalism. Today, when you look at Islamic countries, if any intellectuals, youth, clergymen, academics, and various groups wish to claim that they favor reform, they turn to Islam. This shows the great capacity of Islam. It shows the power of Islam. The enemy sees this and has become sensitive as a result.

Well, the world of Islam is faced now with the enemy of Islam and Muslims, which has these two particular features: Better equipped than ever and greater sensitivity to Islam than ever. What will this enemy do? The best means at the disposal of this enemy is to create divisions among Muslims, especially among those sections that can serve as an inspiration for other Muslims and other people.

Look at how much money is spent today in various Islamic countries — petrodollars and so on — in order to write books to attribute strange and bizarre ideas to Shiites. I was collecting such books at one time — only part of them of course. I saw that many books were written on this subject. The most cunning propaganda agents are spending their efforts on preparing such books in order to create divisions, in order to divide that part of Islam that has raised the banner of Islam — at the height of which is Islamic Iran — from the Islamic community. [passage omitted]

A major part of the world's great material resources, underground reserves, God given mineral resources are at the disposal of Islamic countries. If they work together or, at least, do not work against each other, you will see what will happen in the world.

The enemy is trying to bring about a situation in which, in the world of Islam all these material and human resources are set against each other. They provoked the Iraqi regime. They created a ruinous war in this region that lasted eight years. Then, they helped it so that, if it could, it should completely uproot this young tree [the Iranian revolution]. Of course, it was unable to do so. [passage omitted]

Now, too, the enemies are trying their utmost in political ways to uproot the Iranian regime. Nevertheless, my conclusion — as an individual who sees and senses the enemy's plot — my recommendation, my understanding, my interpretation of the situation is that solidarity, unity between Muslims is a vital necessity for Muslims. It is not a joke. It is not a slogan. Islamic communities must, in earnest, achieve unity of expression, act together.

Of course, unity is a complicated task. Establishing unity is a complicated task. Unity between Islamic nations can survive alongside differences between sects, can survive alongside different ways and traditions of life, can survive alongside different kinds of religious jurisprudence. Unity between Islamic nations means that they should move in step with each other on issues relating to the world of Islam, to help each other, and that they should not use their resources against one another within their own nations.

One of the things that can serve as a focal point in this regard is the holy Prophet of God, may peace be upon him and his scion. Muslims and Islamic intellectuals must — with an all encompassing view of Islam — invest in his personality, his teachings, and devotion to him.

Obedience to the Prophet's family is among the things that all Muslims can agree with and can therefore form an axis for this unity. All Muslims believe in the Prophet's family. The Shiites of course believe in their imamate [guardianship]. The non-Shiites do not consider them as imams, but nonetheless they regard them as great personalities of Islam who are related to the Prophet and are certainly well-informed about his ideas.

The Muslims should therefore form their unity around obedience to the guidelines of the Prophet's household. This is a cause for unity. [passage omitted]

Religious scholars have a great duty in paving the way for unity. This does not mean scholars from one school only, but it means scholars from both schools should try.

My brothers and sisters: Sometimes the enemy, in its attempt to create discord, will employ even individuals who have no bias and no ill-intentions. These may be recruited both from the midst of the Shiites or the Sunnis.

In the Shiite community a move may take place that might provoke and upset the non-Shiite Muslim brother. The very same thing may happen in the Sunni community and arouse the sensitivity of the Shiites. Who is responsible for such moves?

Today, a common enemy stands before us. In addition to the fact that we all share the same book, tradition, divine messenger, Qiblah, Ka'bah, Hajj, prayers and pillars of faith — despite some technical differences that naturally exist between any two scholars — we also have a common enemy. This makes the issue of Islamic unity even more serious.

Even one single day of delay in the attainment of this unity means one more day of damage to the world of Islam. These are crucial days and each single one of these can affect a whole lifetime. We should not allow further delays.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, praise be to God, pursued this aim from the very first day. Our eminent Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, pioneered the way. Other officials, organs, authors, thinkers, and orators from the Islamic world have also made great efforts. Do not allow these efforts to be wasted. [crowd chants: "God is greater," "Khamene'i is the leader"] [passage omitted] God's blessings and benedictions be upon you all. [end recording]

Rafsanjani Appoints Research Institute Chief

LD1308172095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today appointed Mr. Rowghani-Zanjani as head of the board of trustees at the Higher Institute of Research for Planning and Development [HIRPD]. The text of the president's letter of appointment is as follows:

In His Exalted Name. To His Excellency Mr. Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani, the presidential adviser for planning and budget affairs: In view of your excellency's experience gained during years of service in the Planning and Budget Organization, the task of directing the HIRPD as the head of its board of trustees is allocated to your excellency so that you can perform your duties in accordance with a resolution passed by the cultural revolution council on 21 September 1988. It is hoped that, by relying upon the Almighty's succor, you will strive to promote the aspirations of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani

Pakistan

Former Foreign Secretary Comments on U.S. Ties

'First Part'

BK1108143295 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 3 Aug 95 p 2

["First Part" of former Foreign Secretary Abdul Sattar's "Written Statement" before the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] This brief note deals only with Pakistan's relation with the United States. For a balanced perspective on foreign policy, it should be necessary to discuss our relations also with a number of other major countries. Foremost among them are China, a long-standing friend and a great power with a deep interest in opposing hegemony globally as well as in South Asia; Japan which is second in the world in the size of its economy and for years first on Pakistan's aid and trade horizons; Western Europe and in particular Germany, again for economic reasons; Russia which remains the second most powerful State with an export interest in modern arms; the Gulf States that absorb a substantial part of our manpower and value-added merchandise, and, of course India which poses the gravest danger to our security.

No one can accuse Pakistan of ignoring the United States. Even when Pakistan felt unduly abandoned or subjected to discriminatory pressures, we have spared no effort on our part to cultivate American goodwill. We have taken in stride the American cut-off of economic aid and military sales. The discrimination implicit in American non-proliferation policy in South Asia and the extraordinary situation created by Washington's holdup of deliveries against the 1.4 billion dollars our poor country paid in advance, hasn't dampened our enthusiasm.

To advocate a more self-respecting policy is not to suggest a swing to the other extreme. Wisely, our government have refrained from a confrontationist course. We have been realistic enough to recognize America's capacity to inflict even greater harm than it has already done to Pakistan. What is curious, however, is the degree of consideration our governments have lavished on America. A country that gives Pakistan no aid and has treated Pakistan less than fairly, seems nevertheless to command great influence over our political Leaders. Perhaps they believe that Washington can still make or break government in our country.

What seems to be missing is the realization that Washington's episodic policy toward Pakistan is a product of America's changing security and economic interests. It is not characteristic of the United States alone. All Great Powers seek to decide the agenda in relations with middle and small Powers. They have not only wider interests but also longer levers to pry and prod, move and manipulate. At different times over the past, the United States has set the tone and the pace by providing, suspending, resuming or cutting off economic assistance and military supplies to Pakistan. Parallelism with US policies brought rewards, divergence penalties.

Since the mid-1979s prevention of Pakistan from acquiring nuclear capability has been a key determinant of American policy toward our country. The United States cut off economic aid to Pakistan in 1978, resumed it in 1981 and cut it off again in 1990. Pakistan was first penalized for embarking upon uranium enrichment, then rewarded for becoming front-line state against Soviet expansion in Afghanistan, and then subjected to even worse penalties and pressures, again because of our nuclear programme.

It should also be clear that the American policy toward Pakistan did not swing because of changes of government in either Washington or Islamabad. Thus

— The same Democratic President Carter who invoked the Symington Amendment to cut off aid to Pakistan in 1978 offered to resume it even without a request when Pakistan became a front-line State. President Zia who was shunned by Washington for over two years, overnight became the cynosure of American eyes.

— Republican Reagan had no difficulty in persuading Congress to endorse resumption of aid to Pakistan in 1981 but another Republican George Bush did not even try to save Pakistan from the Pressler Amendment in 1990.

— In 1991-92, the Bush administration threatened to declare Pakistan a terrorist state, but the threat was lifted in early 1993 when Nawaz Sharif was still Prime Minister.

— The Pressler penalties remained in force, even after Benazir Bhutto became Prime Minister in October 1993. The Clinton administration did nothing to rectify this injustice for two years. Then it changed tune four months ago.

The question we need to ask is "Why? [quotation marks as published] By understanding the rationale, we may be in a position to guard against pitfalls and protect our own interests as well as disappointment in future.

For correct analysis, it is important to recall that the change of American tune became manifest on February 1,1995. On that day in a speech to the Asia Society in New York Defence Secretary William Perry said that the Pressler Amendment was "a blunt instrument" which was not only ineffective but counterproductive. During the same month of February, the Clinton administration launched a spirited assault on the Pressler Amendment. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary and Assistant Secretaries Joseph Nye of Department of Defence and Robin Raphel of Department of State testified before the Senate Sub-committee on South Asia. American officials echoed some home-truths about Pressler's pernicious contents. They acknowledged that the amendment singled out Pakistan. As Nye said, the American non-proliferation focus has been on Pakistan alone.

Interestingly, Perry also said that "Pakistan is the key to peace in the region." Raphel said that the Pressler Amendment had caused strains on bilateral relations in recent years, which not only hurt Pakistan but also "pose problems in promoting US strategic and business interests in the region."

'Second Part'

BK1108150495 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 5 Aug 95 p 2

["Second Part" of former Foreign Secretary Abdul Sattar's "Written Statement" before the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Clearly, the American administration began the Pressler review process months before our Prime Minister arrived in Washington. To note this fact is not, however, the grudge her praise for competent and persuasive advocacy of aggrieved Pakistan's just cause. [sentence as published] She won friends and influenced people in high places. Senate majority leader Bob Dole said he was impressed by the case presented by the Prime Minister. The American President publicly acknowledged that Pakistan has been unfairly treated. In the joint communique, he has formally affirmed "his intention to work with Congress to revise the Pressler Amendment."

These are welcome words for the people of Pakistan. But so far only words. We do not yet know, whether the American President will persevere in efforts to persuade the American Congress to revise the Pressler law. He will need to overcome the opposition of not only the Pakistan-bashing Senator Larry Pressler, a Republican in a Republican majority Senate, but also influential anti-proliferation Senators like John Glenn and Claiborne Pell who think the United States should continue to punish Pakistan.

The government and people of Pakistan must hope and wish that President Clinton will succeed so that we can get either the goods we bought or our money back. Meanwhile we may revert to the question why has Washington woken up to the need to reappraise Pressler? We may not be able to penetrate the US mind. But we can speculate, analyze the concessions Pakistan has given, and count the costs.

One answer to the conundrum may be found in the remark made by both Perry and Raphel: the Pressler law did not work; despite stoppage of assistance since 1990. Pakistan has not abandoned its nuclear programme. Notably, the emphasis is not on law or equity, but on efficacy and pragmatism. From our own perspective, the credit should go to our people who have demonstrated the will to make sacrifices necessary for the security of our state. Both Perry and Raphel acknowledged that the retention of the nuclear option commands widespread and deeply felt public sentiment and that the nuclear option is perceived to be vital to their national security.

While justified in complimenting ourselves, we should not however ignore the compromise Pakistan has made on the nuclear issue. In 1989 we stopped production of highly enriched uranium, revising our decades-old principle of opposition to unilateral measures. The suspension has continued over the past six years, despite the risk it involves for Pakistan's long-term security, sacrificing the sufficiency of the nation's deterrence. Perhaps Washington is aware of the rising opposition to government's capping decision and has decided to reward Islamabad with words of praise and apparent softening of posture.

The government has also earned Washington's appreciation by allowing American police personnel to operate on Pakistan's territory, and short-circuiting the country's laws and extradition procedures to please Washington. By no means is it to suggest that Pakistan should provide asylum to terrorists or criminals. Nor that we do not need to improve the efficiency of the organs and agencies of our own State so as to apprehend criminals. But we should at least be cognizant of our loss is ignoring our own laws and bartering our State's sovereignty. [sentence as published] What our government has done smacks of the capitulations the Ottoman Empire conceded to European powers during its decay and decline.

Equally surprising is the "key role" the joint communique issued after Bhutto-Clinton talks assigns for Pakistan to "play in promoting moderation...in the Islamic world." We should know that the world "moderation" is juxtaposed to extremism. Lobbies in America that are not difficult to identify have invented so-called "Islamic extremism and fundamentalism" as the new enemy in place of Communism. They conveniently ignore the fact that fundamentalist movements exist also in Christian, Hindu and Jewish worlds. America itself is not free from extremists, as was demonstrated in the mass suicide in Texas, and more recently, in Oklahoma. Why then should Pakistan agree to a statement in favour of moderation only in the Islamic world?

It seems ironic that the government of our Islamic Republic, required by our Constitution "to preserve and strengthen relations among Muslim countries based on Islamic unity," should appear ultra-eager to become a front-line State for so-called moderation. By joining in singling out the Islamic world, Pakistan would play into the hands of the anti-Islamic forces. The targets of these anti- Islamic lobbies include Iran, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Palestine, Ikhwanul Muslimeen in Egypt and Islamic Solidarity in Algeria. Pakistan's soul will not be at ease if we seem insensitive to the aspiration of Muslim peoples for social justice and integrity of rulers. We shall harm also the cause of the liberation struggle of the Kashmiri people who are dubbed by Indian propaganda and some Western media as "Muslim extremists."

Pakistan has to be particularly mindful of the need to steer clear of even an impression of identification with the rising American hostility toward Iran. In the course of hearings in the Senate sub-committee last February, a rather opaque but significant reference was made to American interest in discouraging what was described as "an unhealthy relationship: between Pakistan and Iran. We have to be clear of our own interests. Pakistan cannot afford to barter its friendly relations with Iran or join in any strategy to isolate his fraternal and supportive neighbor.

During the past month President Clinton has proclaimed an economic boycott of Iran, and embarked upon active diplomacy to prevent Russia and China from selling equipment and services to complete nuclear power reactors that were started by Germany even though these projects for the peaceful uses of atomic energy will be subject to inspection and safeguards by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Pakistan is not in a position to influence American policy, and denouncing it may entail costs we cannot afford, but we can and should demonstrate our solidarity with Iran by increasing economic cooperation.

It might be noted also that the Prime Minister's visit to the United States will go down in our country's history as the most lavish visit ever of a Pakistani chief executive. The large entourage has unfortunately become a practice ever since the 1970s. But never before did the Pakistan government and public sector corporations sponsor 22 pages of advertisements in the Washington Post and a similar splurge in the The New York Times at a cost of crores of rupees.

Prospects of Pakistan-US relations remain clouded with uncertainty. Consultations are said to be in progress between the administration and the Congress. Reports indicate that reinterpretation of the Pressler Amendment to extend insurance for American investments in Pakistan is likely to meet with little opposition. But that cannot be said for revision of the Pressler law to permit the release of F-16s and other heldup equipment. Success of such an initiative will require major effort by the administration. If the effort is made and it succeeds, a painful chapter in Pakistan-US relations can be closed. But even then relations can hardly achieve normalcy so]long as the Pressler Amendment remains law.

Whether Pressler stays or not, Pakistan's policy has to chart out a policy that steers clear of both confrontation and capitulation. We cannot barter our nuclear capability for resumption of American aid. The government should not hesitate to risk American displeasure and penalties if high level uranium enrichment is necessary to ensure sufficiency before the fissile material cut-off convention enters into force. Pakistan may be unable to influence American policy against Iran, but everything reasonable should be done to evince solidarity with Iran. Conceived as a liberal Islamic State, Pakistan should join all others interested in promoting moderation globally, but our Islamic Republic has a duty to oppose the Jewish-sponsored Western propaganda that seeks to invent so-called Islamic fundamentalism as the new enemy.

Minister Responds to Indian Prime Minister's Speech

BK1508144695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has expressed strong resentment at the unwarranted and false accusations made against Pakistan by the Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, during his address on the occasion of India's Independence Day today.

In a statement issued in Islamabad, the foreign minister said the assertions of the Indian prime minister regarding Pakistan's alleged responsibility for the murder of Norwegian tourist in occupied Kashmir was not only baseless but highly irresponsible, coming as they did from the chief executive of a country. He said it was not expected that the holder of this high office would engage in such slanderous attacks in a vain attempt to divert attention from India's own failings. The foreign minister recalled that the Government of Pakistan had time and again condemned kidnappings, taking of hostages, and other acts of terrorism whatever the circumstances. The prime minister and the Government of Pakistan had condemned the heinous acts of murder of an innocent tourist. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister said the Indian prime minister's offer of talks with Pakistan, while repeating its untenable claim that Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India, amounted to shutting the door on negotiations and was meant merely to appeal to the gallery. He said one is justified in asking that if Prime Minister Rao and the Indian Government have a closed mind on discussion of the core issue between the two countries, what is his offer to resume talks with Pakistan all about? The foreign minister reiterated Pakistan's principled stand on holding meaningful and purposeful negotiations with India on the core issue and again demanded that India must create a propitious climate for such negotiations. He regretted that Mr. Rao's present statement appeared to confirm that India was not ready for serious talks on Kashmir.

India Said Misleading World Opinion on Kashmir

BK1608085395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chairman of the parliamentary committee on Kashmir, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, has said the Indian accusations of Pakistan's involvement in the killing of a Norwegian tourist in Kashmir was just another ploy to mislead the international opinion about the freedom struggle in the held Kashmir. He told APP in Islamabad that having filed to curb the freedom movement in the valley with all its military might and blatant violations of human rights, India has now planned to betray the international opinion about the Kashmiri people's struggle through such ploys as showing them involved in the killing of foreign tourists.

Altaf Group Invited to Talks; No 'Preconditions'

BK1508161895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Professor N.D. Khan, the federal minister for law and the leader of the government negotiating team, has invited the Altaf Group team to resume talks without setting any preconditions, as was agreed at the beginning of the talks. The invitation, which was extended to Ajmal Dehlvi, the leader of the Altaf Group's negotiating team, was faxed to him at about 1800 this evening. The invitation was received by him. In the letter, Prof. N.D. Khan has asked Ajmal Dehlvi to give a written reply to the clarifications sought by the government to remove the misunderstandings created on these issues. Without deviating from its decision and stance, the government negotiating team is prepared to call them the Muhajir Qaumi Movement Altaf Group.

Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal, the federal minister for information and broadcasting, has said the martyrdom of 14 innocent people on 14 August at the hands of the so-called Muhajir Tiger Force of the Altaf Group was a most barbarous act. In a statement in Islamabad, he said the actual faces of the people who, with a note, described this carnage as a gift for the independence day celebrations and forced people at the point of weapons to remove the national flag from their houses, have been exposed now. He said the government is making serious efforts to resolve the Karachi situation through political negotiations, but, by neglecting this path and adopting the path of violence, the Altaf Group has disgraced the sanctity of our independence. He said the law enforcing agencies cannot be prevented from fulfilling their responsibilities through acts of terrorism. Terrorists cannot earn the sympathies of any political party or any human rights organization of the country. Kharal said the government will not forgive terrorists and necessary steps have been taken to deal with them sternly.

The New Karachi police has registered a First Information Report [FIR] against Altaf Hussain and 14 other leaders of the party for the deaths of the six people whose bodies were recovered from a coach. The FIR states that Altaf Hussain and the party's cadres in charge of New Karachi Sector — Ali Reza and Ershad Beg — hatched a conspiracy to kill these people and ordered Nayim Sheri, Nadim Javed, Abrar, Waqar Babu, Rashid Dhobi, Sana Sipahi, Rashid Wadoor, Nashir, Nadim, and Wasim Qureshi to abduct and kill them. According to the police, the FIR has been filed under Number 427/95. The police has claimed that it has located the spot where these people were killed after their abduction.

Bhutto Warns 'Elements' Challenging Authority

BK1608095895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 16 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said the people's government has been elected by the people and it has deep roots in all the four provinces and support of the people. She was speaking at the ground breaking ceremony of Naoshera Bypass this morning. The 9 kilometer-long bypass will cost about 540 million rupees and will be completed in two years time. Reaffirming her government's commitment to maintain law and order throughout the country, the prime minister said her government would deal with a firm hand with all those who wanted to challenge the state authority and were playing with the lives of innocent citizens. She said Pakistan is a democratic country and the government cannot allow the elements who challenge the state authority. The government, she added, can welcome criticism of its various policies, but will not tolerate those challenging the rule of law. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the government took action against drug barons who tried to create trouble by using people in Malakand; similarly, dealt with those challenging the state authority in Bada and Karachi.

Bhutto Addresses Female Muslim Parliamentarians

BK0208095895 Islamabad THE NATION in English 2 Aug 95 p 7

["Text" of speech by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to the First Annual International Conference of Women Parliamentarians from Muslim Countries in Islamabad on 1 August]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] It is a very special honor and joy, as the first Muslim Woman ever elected as head of government, to welcome women parliamentarians to our First Annual International Conference of Women Parliamentarians from Muslim countries.

It is a privilege for me, for my government, for the city of Islamabad and all the city of Islamabad and all the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to welcome you to our country this week.

We meet as parliamentarians, and as working women, at time of extraordinary change and extraordinary opportunity in a world of transition.

Every year, parliamentarians from all over the world, gather for the International Parliamentary Union to share experiences, and to forge links between the Parliaments of the World.

We, in Pakistan, felt that it was important for Women Parliamentarians from Muslim countries to meet regularly, to forge closer links between Muslim countries' Women Parliamentarians.

In each of our countries, we the working women face challenges of one kind or another. Many of us face challenges from obscurantist groups, which declare that women should not leave their home.

Such obscurantist views are a direct contradiction to the message of liberation, contained in Islam.

At the heart of Islamic message is the concept of the working woman.

God chose a working woman, Hazrat Khadija to be the first witness to Islam.

The Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) married a working woman, Bibi Khadija. And during the lifetime of Bibi Khadija, the Holy prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) never took another wife.

Thus, there is a message in this for all Muslims, who have the wisdom and sagacity to study Islamic history and the Islamic message.

It is a message of egalitarianism. Islam is a message of equality.

In pre-Islamic times, female infants were buried alive. Having a daughter was considered a shame.

Islam put a stop on this shameful act of female fratricide.

In fact, the only daughter of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) survived to become one of the greatest women of Islam.

Bibi Fatima was a most respected lady. She became mother to two Imams and wife to the fourth caliph.

Thus, Islam stresses the importance to the family, to the society and to the community, by according high respect and honor to women as mothers, as daughters, as wives and as working women.

The history of Islam is replete with instances, in which the Muslim women took part in battles.

This demonstrates that Islam places no barriers for women. In fact it breaks down barriers. Women can work in the house, do trade or take part in war.

Again and again, the Holy Book proclaims the equality of men and women.

It was Islam which first gave women rights to divorce, to child custody, to alimony and to inheritance.

These are the rights which the Western World won only recently, in the 20th century, for its women.

Again in Ijtehaad [religious meeting], men and women can both take part in the process. Yet in the Western World, women only received the right to vote or determine the theme of their societies in the 20th century.

Unfortunately, if women are backward in the Muslim countries, it is not because of our religion. It is because of male traditions of a cultural or tribal nature, which have denied women the rights, guaranteed in Islam.

Forced marriages, for instance, are against the basic tenets of our religion, when they take place, they do so due to traditions and not Islamic principles.

Today there many political forums, where political issues are discussed.

However, we see no forum, where Muslim women can meet to discuss the social traditions and taboos, to discuss the rights that Islam guarantees women.

We in Pakistan envisage Muslim Women Parliamentarians gathering together, not to talk about politics, but to cross the political divide and talk about social issues, that affect women in Muslim countries, and to see how each of us, and our societies, are coping with such social problems.

It may prima facie seem strange to talk to Parliamentarians who, by nature, are political, to join together on a non-political debate.

Yet a deeper study will show that it is not strange.

For we are Muslim women. We wish to rise above political partisanship, above political considerations and political views, to talk about social moves and the condition of women.

For instance, we would like to learn what sort of rape laws exist in other Muslim countries.

We would like to tell you that in our country we face a big issue in domestic violence.

We have now set-up a tribunal for disadvantaged groups.
This tribunal can take suo moto notice of excesses against women.
Women can approach this tribunal on their own too.

What are we to do, when Islam clearly states that child custody will be with a women until a certain age, but male judges often violate this law and snatch our babies from our arms.

How are we to confront such challenges?

We meet therefore, to begin a debate on the many obstacles Muslim, women face and to see, if we can learn form each other in how to overcome such challenges.

We meet also at the eve of the UN sponsored Women summit at Beijing, later this year.

Our gathering gives us an opportunity to discuss some of the issues, which will be raised at this forum, and to see whether there are some issues on which we can adopt a common approach.

Pakistan is the first Muslim country to have elected a woman Prime Minister. And we have tried to move dramatically in the area of women's rights. As I speak before you, many of our martyrs come to mind and their families whom I consoled. Their courage and dignity in the face of tragedy was remarkable.

It is the irony of life that while there are men who suppress and men who emancipate, so there are women who suppress and women who emancipate.

This a phenomenon we would like to share with you.

In our society we often hear of mother-in-laws suppressing daughters-in-laws and then the daughter-in-law grows up and does what her mother-in-law did.

Why? I do not have the answers. These answers and their solutions can only come through a debate and discussion by Muslim women. And I feel proud that we are beginning this discussion collectively today. Of course, it is not easy, being a working Muslim woman.

We Muslim women recognise that.
The obstacles are greater.
The demands are greater.
The barriers are greater.
The double standards are greater.

And the expectations of all those, who look to us as role models are greater.

Those of us who have chosen to work, have broken new ground. We have broken the stereotypes. Without bitterness, we who have gone the extra mile, are judged by higher standards, held more accountable. In other words, we have had to outperform, outdistance, outmanage men at every level.

We should not shrink from that responsibility, we should welcome it, welcome it on behalf of women all over the world, in cities and in rural villages, in the great universities and in the miasma of illiteracy.

For all who suffered before, and for all who come after us, we are privileged to be in this special position, in this special time, with this extraordinary opportunity to change the future.

Distinguished ladies, thank you for coming to Pakistan. Thank you for coming to Islamabad.

Thank you for attending the conference of Women Parliamentarians from Muslim countries.

I would like to leave you with two worlds.

First from the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), who said that the best veil is the veil in the eyes.

And finally, the moment has come in the history for us to write her story.

Sri Lanka

Steps Taken To Establish Human Rights Commission

BK1408121195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Action has been taken to set up a Human Rights Commission. A bill has been gazetted to set out the powers and functions of such commission.

The functions of the commission will be to monitor executive and administrative practices and procedures with a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Constitution relating to fundamental rights and to promote respect for and observance of fundamental rights. It will be empowered to inquire into and investigate complaints regarding infringements of fundamental rights. The commission will advice and assist the government in preparing legislation for the promotion and detection of fundamental rights. It will make recommendations to the government regarding action to be taken to ensure that national laws and administrative practices are in accordance with international human rights norms and standard. It will also make recommendations to the government on the need to subscribe to treaties and other international instruments in the fields of human rights. The commission will also have the powers to investigate or intervene in any infringement of fundamental rights pending before any court. It could also monitor the welfare of persons detained by judicial order or otherwise. It could also take action as directed by the Supreme Court in respect of any matter referred to it by the court.

The necessary legislation will be introduced to Parliament soon.

'Senior' LTTE Intelligence 'Operative' Arrested

BK1508115095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A senior LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] intelligence wing operative has been arrested by the police. He is described as a close associate of the LTTE intelligence wing leader, Pottu Amman. The LTTE suspect is now under interrogation by the CID [Criminal Investigation Department] detectives following his arrest by the police in Maho last Friday [11 August].

Police sources told LANKAPUVATH that the terrorist, whose name was not disclosed for reasons of security, was 28 years old and had worked at a motor spare parts shop at (Panchikawatte) in Colombo. He had been working for the last one month at a hotel in Maho, where he was arrested by a squad of policemen led by the chief inspector, B. Jayewardene, officer in charge of the Maho Police Station. Police sources said he was reported to have been trained in the use of explosives and weapons and is now in an expert. He had his preliminary training at the LTTE's One-Four Base in Mullaitivu. He was involved in the blowing up of two military vehicles, killing over 15 soldiers; leading an attack on the Oddusuddan Police Station; and also in the kidnapping of five police constables in the past.

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